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KUNA: VARIOUS PALESTINIAN GROUPS REACT TO FRENCH STAND

LD111034 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0724 GMT 11 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Fatah, the largest Palestinian fedayeen organization, in a press statement issued here today welcomes France's recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, while four other Palestinian movements consider that this recognition is meant to serve French interests in the Middle East.

Majid Abu Sharar ah, secretary of the Revolutionary Council of Fatah, in statements carried by AL-WATAN, describes the French stand as an advanced step along the path of better understanding of the Palestinian question, "which is a feature of a known French trend in the endeavor to adopt a French stand distinguishable from the American stand vis-a-vis a number of issues including the Palestinian question."

He says that the basic reason behind the French step is "the Palestinian insistence on persisting with armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, on opposing the American imperialist plot and on challenging the Israeli aggression." He calls for lasting adherence to these policies "in order to help our friends everywhere to develop their stands" toward the Palestinian question.

A spokesman for the pro-Syrian As-Sa'iqah, Abu al-Qasim al-Khalili, attributes this French recognition to Paris' desire to maintain a state of stability in the Middle East, as "it considers with deep (?concern) its vital interests which link it with our region and which are concentrated on" the oil resources and on the Arab countries being an extensive market for French-made weapons and products. He adds that France "wants, from its comprehension of the central Arab issues, to eradicate some feeling of animosity and suspicion directed against the West in our Arab region."

'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim, of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Liberation Front, has stated that the French step "is no more than cosmetics on the face of the American plot" represented in the Camp David agreements between Egypt and Israel tended by the United States.

He adds that "American imperialism, now that its plans have reached a dead end, especially regarding the self-rule plan in the occupied Palestinian territory, wants to entrust the European imperialist states with the task of finishing the job."

Both the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Struggle Front (?stress) that Paris' recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination is incomplete. The official spokesman of the first front says that the recognition "is incomplete and belated, and serves French policy above all, for it does not refer to the right of our people to return and to rebuild their independent state."

The official spokesman for the second front says that the French step "remains inadequate for it is still below the required level, and the French stand should be completed by recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and of the right to self-determination and to return and to establish an independent Palestinian state."

AFP: 'ARAFAT CRITICIZES U.S. VOTE ON UNSC RESOLUTION

NC101748 Paris AFP in English 1742 GMT 10 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Paris, March 10 (AFP)--Palestine Liberation Organization Chief Yasir 'Arafat today implicitly rejected to idea of "guarantees for the security" of Israel.

In a French television interview filmed in Beirut, Mr 'Arafat said: "I hope that everyone, before talking about the security of Israel and its future, will talk about the security and future of the victims, the Palestinians," whom he described as "the owners, the former citizens," of Palestine.

"Sixty percent of our Palestinian people currently live outside their homeland as refugees, homeless and stateless," he affirmed.

But when pressed to geographically define the Palestinian state, Mr 'Arafat said only that this definition must be "in accordance with the United Nations resolutions."

Thanking French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing for his recent statements favoring Palestinian self-determination and PLO participation in the Middle East peace talks, Mr 'Arafat said he hoped that the next stage would be "recognition of the PLO and the Palestinians' right to their own state."

Qualifying the tripartite U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian negotiations on the future of the West Bank and Gaza as "a huge joke," the PLO chief sharply criticized the "step backward" of the American administration after its U.N. Security Council vote concerning Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

By reversing its decision, "the United States loses credibility, but it also harms the credibility of the United Nations," he said.

KUNA: PLO'S KHALAF DOUBTS PROSPECT OF EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

LD101412 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1311 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 10 March--A senior Palestinian commander today expressed skepticism about the likelihood of the Western European countries making an initiative for peace in the Middle East outside the framework of the Egyptian-Israeli-American Camp David agreements.

Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf told journalists after meeting with Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rashid ar-Rashid that one must not pin "too much hope on any European initiative, not out of pessimism but out of doubt in the European countries' ability to take an initiative independent of the Camp David trap."

Khalaf welcomed France's call, during the current tour of Arab countries by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, for support of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, describing it as "a political gain" for the Palestine question.

Salah Khalaf, however, described the attitude of France and Europe toward the Middle East question as "independent" of that of the United States. He added that this attitude could "bolster Arab-European relations and particularly Arab relations with France, it being more bold than others in dealing with the question."

Khalaf, who is also known by the name of Abu Iyad, reiterated the PLO's rejection of the United Kingdom Plan, proposed by King Husayn of Jordan 7 years ago, and said that the PLO can accept nothing short of an independent Palestine state. The plan provides for a federal union of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the east bank of the Jordan, to be called the United Kingdom.

He added, however, that the Palestinian State must have "special relations with Jordan. This matter will be decided upon the Palestinian people after the establishment of the state."

He criticized President Carter's retraction of the vote on the UN Security Council resolution condemning the establishment of Israeli settlements and described President Carter's position as "extremely disgraceful."

Abu Iyad expressed his support for the national reconciliation charter proposed by Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and said that the PLO and Syria will exert all efforts to insure its success "because if this operation fails a new setback of which no Arab could approve could take place in Lebanon." He expressed his belief that the 5-year-old crisis in Lebanon has entered "the stage of easing up."

FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEET 9 MARCH

NC100722 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World
0530 GMT 10 Mar 80 NC

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee held a meeting last night attended by brother Commander Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman. The Central Committee reviewed the situation and current developments on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels, especially the development of the situation in southern Lebanon.

It has been learned that the committee also discussed the outcome of the [Palestinian officials'] recent tour of some Arab states. The committee adopted a number of decisions and recommendations regarding the recent developments. It also adopted decisions in the political, organizational and military spheres.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council last night held an emergency meeting attended by brother Abu 'Ammar and the brother members of the Central Committee and Revolutionary Council. The council heard a comprehensive report by the Central Committee on recent developments on the local, Palestinian and Arab levels, and discussed the situation in southern Lebanon in the light of these developments.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET 11 MARCH

NC110642 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World
0530 GMT 11 Mar 80 NC

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee will hold a meeting today to study the latest developments in the present situation on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels and to study the latest developments in the Lebanese arena. Head of the PLO Political Department brother Abu al-Lutf has stated that after its meeting the PLO Executive Committee will issue a statement defining its position on the current developments and issues.

BOMB DAMAGES MILITARY TRANSPORTATION STATION IN JERUSALEM

NC101726 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World
1615 GMT 10 Mar 80 NC

[Text] At dawn today, one of our groups operating within the occupied homeland planted a time bomb inside the military transportation station used by the enemy soldiers in French Hill, a suburb of occupied Jerusalem. One of the enemy discovered the bomb this morning, and the residents of French Hill were evacuated. Afterward, a Zionist bomb disposal expert, after failing to defuse the bomb, detonated it where it had been found, thus damaging the station and a vehicle. The Zionist police force then launched a campaign of arbitrary arrests in the area followed by a search of other bombs.

PDRY

PREMIER DENIES INTERNAL DISCORD OVER TREATY WITH USSR

LD082050 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 7 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Interview with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PDRY, by Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH; time and place not given--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [Question] Some external forces have exploited the subject of the friendship agreement between you and the Soviet Union in order to increase suspicious about Democratic Yemen in the region. What steps have you taken to explain the situation and remove suspicious from the minds of fraternal states? These suspicious say that Democratic Yemen has transformed itself into part of one of the world axes, whose rivalry and possible confrontation is on the increase.

[Answer] Our Yemen proceeds with a foreign policy which requires support for the struggle of peoples for their liberation, freedom, the maintenance of their independence and national sovereignty, the protection of their newly-independent regimes and the establishment of normal and equal relations among states. This requires a stand against imperialist, Zionist and racist policies, that is, against colonialist military bases, imperialist military alliances and also suspect axes. Democratic Yemen holds the view that the Arabian Sea, the Gulf, the Red Sea, the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean should be among the peaceful areas of the world. We shall struggle for the sake of this.

As regards suspicions raised about the friendship and cooperation treaty with the Soviet Union, suspicions which have now reached the level of a competition between the Western intelligence organizations and news media and also Arab news media to analyze the results, publish maps, state the number of troops and Soviet bases in our country--not just this but even their fabrications--this is of no interest to us and it arouses our people's scorn.

What do you expect, for example, when the citizen is enjoying full freedom, that is, you as a visiting journalist, when he hears and you hear and read that demonstrators were in the city streets yesterday carrying posters and shouting slogans against the regime and the friendship treaty and you know nothing about it? Aren't these cheap lies? Our people have already grown scornful of such reports carried again and again by the CIA and published by As-Sadat's newspapers and copied by the reactionary Arab papers, then going back again to their sources.

We have explained to our Arab brothers, led by the Kuwaitis, that the friendship treaty harms no one and is there to serve our regime and social progress. We have told the Saudis similar things. The articles of the treaty have been made public and published. There are no secret articles to merit this outcry. The Soviets are not like the Americans. They are the friends of the Arabs. They are the friends and supporters of the Arabs' cause of destiny, Palestine, but what can we say to people who want to find hidden meanings in everything? [Words indistinct] journalists chasing news, especially during the years after our independence.

Reports have been published and analyses done on the number of Soviet bases, how many thousand troops, or divisions of Democratic German and Cuban troops there are in our country.

In fact, if you have been monitoring all these reports and analyses there would not be a foothold for anyone except for a Soviet soldier or officer or a missile. Nor would our waters have room for anything but warships or cruisers. I leave you the freedom to say what you want.

Our people, as I have told you, are scornful of such reports and they do not burden themselves with listening to them. At the same time they are proud of their principled relations with the USSR and the other members of the socialist community. They do not need to be told who their friends or enemies are. It would be worthier of those who call for a war against our regime to direct themselves to Jerusalem, the second [as heard] of the holy places, and liberate it.

[Question] The PDRY Government has, during the last few weeks, taken a number of initiatives and made several visits. Do you feel that the explanations you have offered concerning the treaty have succeeded in clarifying the situation, calming the fears of the Arab countries which have expressed reservations about that treaty.

[Answer] I do believe so. The fears expressed about the Yemeni-Soviet Friendship Treaty were spurious and there was nothing to justify them. There are some brothers who confirmed this to us. The treaty we have signed was the second such treaty between the Yemeni and Soviet peoples.

The first one was signed by Imam Yahya ibn Hamid ad-Din in 1928 with the Soviet Government. Treaties like the one we have signed have been signed by other fraternal Arab states.

[Question] New regional conditions have arisen in the wake of the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel. Do you have in mind the use of the Bab al-Mandab strait as one of the possible weapons? Or to contain this new reality which has come into being between Cairo and Tel Aviv?

[Answer] We have already stressed our desire for the protection of international shipping in all straits and sea lanes. But when problems develop and all Arab weapons are used to regain the freedom and the rights of Arabs, then every event will be determined on its own.

[Question] The PDRY minister of defense is currently on a visit to Algeria and Libya. Various theories have been put forward to explain this tour. What is your view?

[Answer] Our good relations with both Libya and Algeria and our common links with the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front make it inevitable for us continuously to consult every now and then on issues affecting our relations or on issues of pan-Arab interest. It was within this context that the minister of defense visited Algeria and Libya. We do not hide from anyone the fact that we wish to express our solidarity and cooperation with the struggle of the peoples of Algeria and Libya to preserve their sovereignty and freedom.

[Question] The PDRY general state budget suffers from a permanent deficit due to the paucity of national resources. What are the possibilities of successfully implementing the second development plan in the light of chronic reliance on foreign aid?

[Answer] It is true that the state's budget suffers a permanent deficit because of limited national resources. But measures are being taken to prevent a lasting deficit. During the last period we recorded an increase in national income and this has been reflected in per capita income as a result of increased productivity in existing projects in agriculture, fisheries and industry.

We feel that we need to concentrate all loans and [word indistinct] for investment. These are great potentialities to realize these projects if we do not take account of the significance of stagnation in the sources of finance [sentence as heard].

[Question] Some citizens living abroad complain about complications (?affecting) their relations with their families and expatriates' wives are not allowed to join their husbands. What do you say about this?

[Answer] There are regulations and laws which have been passed and whose object is the regulation of travel. I believe that if a Yemeni emigrant needs his wife, he also needs his parents and kinsmen and relatives. He is above all a citizen like the rest of the citizens who love their homeland and he has the same rights and obligations which apply to our citizens in the country.

[Question] Some citizens also complain about big cash guarantees taken from expatriates outside Aden.

[Answer] The guarantees we take have the purpose of limiting emigration. We need working hands to contribute to nationbuilding. The first people who should shoulder the duty of nationbuilding are the sons of our homeland themselves. For this reason we do not prevent anyone from travelling but we do not permit emigration, because emigration and expatriation result in the numerous social and economic problems which we have been suffering from for many years.

We know that in cases where the expatriate dies outside his homeland and no one learns of it, his family and children become the victims of his expatriation. In such cases we find ourselves responsible for victims belonging to such families.

[Question] Anotner question connected with those who have acquired citizenship in the Gulf states. These people are afraid to return, fearing they will be subjected to questioning

[Answer] Some of these people have returned and were not subjected to any pressures.

However, I want to explain another thing. There are those who renounce their Yemeni citizenship for political reasons. There are others who acquire dual citizenship, Yemeni citizenship to maintain national identify and another citizenship required by the conditions of work in the region. We take into consideration the various reasons for which our citizens take our another citizenship. But as a matter of principle we do not permit renunciation of Yemeni citizenship.

SAUDI ARABIA

FRENCH PRESIDENT VISITS RIYADH 10 MAR

LD101024 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1015 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 10 March--French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing arrived in Riyadh at 1215 today from Amman on a private visit to the kingdom. He was welcomed at the airport by Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and prime minister, Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd Al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; and a number of royal princes. After a short rest at the airport, Prince Fahd accompanied President d'Estaing to the royal palace to visit King Khalid.

Meets King, Crown Prince

LD101850 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France left Riyadh at 1700 this evening after a stopover for a short 5-hour visit during which he called on His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and met with His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister.

His Excellency President Valery Giscard d'Estaing made a statement in which he said: I have visited five countries neighboring the kingdom. It was only natural for me at the end of this tour to visit His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and hold talks with him and with the most senior officials in the kingdom, expecially his royal highness the crown prince and deputy prime minister, Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. His excellency added: "I am pleased that I met with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and discussed with him various issues imposing themselves on the international arena and in the region.

His excellency also said: I have reviewed with His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz the development of the international situation. Our views were in agreement and these views are also in agreement with the views of the Arab countries which I have visited, as well as with the views recently expressed by European leaders with whom I will soon be holding talks. Among the topics discussed was the Middle East problem. I have outlined France's position to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister. We have taken a stand in the interest of justice and peace. I do not want to give details now as I will have the opportunity to give these details in an official speech. Nevertheless, I will give some idea--it includes the fact that any peaceful solution should be based on the people's will, particularly on a people's international right, which is a people's right to self-determination. This is the right known as the right to self-determination as France has declared on various occasions. This should be established on the basis of respecting the commitments.

President Giscard d'Estaing reaffirmed that in order to realize a peaceful settlement in the Middle East all parties concerned should participate in such a settlement, especially the parties directly concerned, including the Palestinians.

Airport Departure

LD101632 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1550 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

[Text] (?Riyadh), 3 Mar, SPA--His Excellency President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France left Riyadh at 1700 this evening after a stopover for a short 5-hour visit during which he called on His Majesty King Khalid ibn'Abd al-'Aziz, and met with His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister.

Leading those who saw off hisexcellency at the airport were His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard. The French president was also seen off by a number of princes, ministers and high-ranking officials.

YAR

JOINT YAR-PDRY COMMITTEE MEETING CONCLUDES

JN101038 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] The brother members of the Joint Constitutional Committee in the northern part of the homeland, under brother Husayn al-Hubayshi, minister of state and adviser to the presidency and cabinet affairs, returned to San'a' this evening after attending the 11th round of talks, which concluded in Aden yesterday.

In a statement to San'a' News Agency upon his arrival, brother al-Hubayshi said that the committee has made progress on the issues that it reveiwed and discussed. He expressed his pleasure and that of the committee members in the northern part of the homeland about the visit that they made to a number of cities in the Hadramawt governorate, where they toured historical sites and libraries.

Al-Hubayshi said: We were pleased to meet brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, prime minister of the southern part of the homeland, on the day of our arrival. We also met with brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, the leader of the southern part of the homeland. It was a good opportunity for us to discuss a number of topics, in order to serve the interests of the two parts of the homeland and to strengthen the work of the unity committees. All of the people are looking forward to this unity, under the two leaders, brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il.

Al-Hubayshi added: We seized this opportunity to convey brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's greetings to his brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and the PDRY officials. He also described the outcome of this round of talks as very successful.

A joint statement was issued on the outcome of the meetings of the Joint Constitutional Committee's 11th round of talks, which was held in Aden. Following is the text of the statement:

The Joint Constitutional Committee held its meetings, which were part of the 11th round of talks and the second for the year 1980, in both Aden and Saywun 4-8 March 1980. The committee discussed the working paper approved at the 10th round of talks, along with the topics proposed by the joint subcommittees. The joint committee amended the topics proposed by the northern and southern parts of the homeland and approved a portion of the unresolved issues following this amendment.

A subcommittee was also formed to arrange and classify the topics approved by the committee and to present proposals by which to complete the issues that are not yet approved, so that these issues can be discussed and approved.

During this session, the committee took the opportunity to visit the Saywun governorate. The committee toured economic and cultural establishments there, as well as historical sites.

The Joint Constitutional Committee will hold its 12th session--the third for the year 1980--in San'a', in accordance with the unity committees' program.

GHALI COMMENTS ON PACE OF NORMALIZATION

TA101200 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Mar 80 p 3 TA

[By Shmu'el Segev, MA'ARIV correspondent in Cairo]

[Text] Egypt sees a link between applying the principles included in a memo it submitted on 13 October 1978 and speeding up the normalization in the Israeli-Egyptian relations. As a result the settlement policy in the West Bank and Hebron constitute an obstacle to the peace process. These are the contents of the message Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, tried to drive home to Israel's Ambassador Eliyahu Ben-Elisar in their meeting yesterday.

In an exlusive interview to MA'ARIV, Ghali said yesterday that although a legal link between the normalization process and the process of applying the autonomy in the territories is missing, "such a link exists de facto." In a memo dated October 1978 and transmitted to Israel via U.S. Secretary of State Vance, Egypt demanded "the creation of conditions that will encourage Palestinians to take part in the peace process," and even worded 20 recommendations including the evacuation of the towns by the military authorities, the release of political prisoners, freedom of expression and freedom of political activity.

In the course of the 40-minute interview held in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, Ghali said it was Ben-Elisar who asked him how the two countries can precipitate the normalization in their relations. "I told him--you should read the October 1978 memo and suspend the settlement programs in the West Bank and Hebron," Ghali said.

Yesterday Ghali briefed the heads of the Egyptian autonomy delegation. His general line was: "There is no need to maintain the peace but to build upon it." Ghali said that, without a solution to the Palestinian problem, a world peace will not prevail either, and, in the absence of such peace, the normalization process too is in danger.

Ghali has thus reinforced President as-Sadat's remarks to the Los Angeles TIMES in an interview published yesterday. In this interview, As-Sadat delcared that "a new situation may arise if progress is not made in the autonomy talks by the target date of 26 May.

MA'ARIV published last week that As-Sadat threatened to freeze cooperation with Israel in various spheres if progress is not achieved in the talks.

Ghali thinks that achieving an agreement in the autonomy talks by 26 May is vital both to Israel and Egypt in order to prove Egypt's earnest intentions as well as enable additional elements to participate in the peace process directly or indirectly.

Ghali refuses to sum up the first year of peace with Israel. According to him, it is too early to sum things up as long as the peace process is still in full swing. "If we treat peace as the desired goal we only stand to gain and will not lose a thing," he said.

Ghali further said "an alliance" in fact exists between Israeli opponents of the peace treaty and the rejectionist countries although, theoretically, there is no common demoninator between the desires of these two parties. When the Israeli Government carries out its settlement plans, it encourages opposition circles in Egypt, Ghali said, but he refused to assess the power of these circles.

Ghali also said that, despite the severance of diplomatic relations between Egypt and most of the Arab countries, Egypt will view itself linked to the defense pact of Arab League members--it will rush to the help of an Arab country attacked by a third party "if the former asks for Egypt's help."

On another subject Ghali said that Egypt agreed to put installations at the disposal of the U.S. Army "but not on a permanent basis, only in the framework of the pan-Arab defense pact or the May 1963 Charter of the Organization of African Unity."

Ghali admitted that Egypt supplied services to U.S. Air Force planes in the days of the "air lift" to Rhodesia, but it did so only after receiving a clear permission from the National Front party led by Robert Mugabe.

Ghali refused to react to Yitzhaq Shamir's appointment as Israel's foreign minister or to compare Shamir to his predecessor in that position, Moshe Dayan, explaining that "he does not want to intervene in Israel's internal politics."

End Autonomy Talks 26 May

LD101255 Paris LE MONDE in French 8 Mar 80 p 6 LD

[J. P. Peroncel-Hugoz dispatch: "Egypt Wants Resolution 242 To Be Modified Should Negotiations Fail"]

[Text] Cairo--Commenting on the Franco-Kuwaiti communique demanding the right to self-determination for the Palestinians, Mr Butrus Ghali said: "Any help for the Palestinian people constitutes support for Egyptian diplomatic action." The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs even told us that he regards the French stance as an "Egyptian victory."

The statements which Mr Mustafa Khalil made to LE MONDE in Paris at the same time were, however, less categorical. While welcoming French support for the idea of self-determination, the Egyptian prime minister said rather unkindly that "Mr Giscard d'Estaing did not say how he was going to persuade the Israelis and the Palestinians...to sit down at the negotiating table together."

Other Egyptian officials have been quick to point out in private that advocating self-determination for the Palestinians without also recalling Israel's right to exist within its 1967 borders could, ultimately, pave the way for calling into question the existence of the Jewish state in its present form. Is it not obvious that, if all Palestinians were consulted in a free ballot, they would opt for the formation of a single state with an Arab majority in a Palestine restored to its 1948 boundaries and unity?

Nonetheless Cairo, which has--from President as-Sadat's speech to the Knesset in 1977 to the present discussions on autonomy--never stopped upholding the Palestinians' right to determine their own future, fully supports the essence of Paris' stance on self-determination. But it is still rather offended at the French reservations, if not with regard to the Egyptian-Israeli peace as such, at least with regard to the Washington treaty clause on the Palestinians. The Egyptians would, of course, welcome a word of encouragement from France for the diplomatic efforts they have been making for almost 1 year without success to btain from Israel some advantages for the Palestinians on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

"Completing Camp David"

One of the official Egyptian interlocutors in talks with the Israelis told us, "All things considered, the French idea on self-determination, coming as it does from a state which has long had a consistent and vanguard Arab policy, makes it possible to usefully complete the Camp David and Washington agreements which fall rather short owing to Israel's intransigence on the final outcome for the Palestinians." According to our interlocutor the idea must now "gain ground in the West until it is adopted by the United States."

The Egyptians think that the logical consequence of the French stance in Kuwait should be a modification of UN Resolution 242 of 22 November 1967 so that the Palestinians are not merely referred to as "refugees" but as a "people." Despite the fact that the United States has called into question its recent vote at the UN Security Council against the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, Cairo would like to believe that Washington would support "the updating of Resolution 242," "Britain, whose diplomacy works in close coordination with U.S. diplomacy, would not uphold such an initiative if t he Americans were not in agreement," Cairo thinks.

26 March [as published]--Fateful Date

However, it should be remembered that last year the Egyptian representative to New York had approved a possible change in the text of Resolution 242 but that the ra'is, seemingly at the express request of Israeli Prime Minister Begin, later withdrew its support for modifying the text. "In fact," an Egyptian diplomat explained to us, "Egypt has always in principle been in favor of changing Resolution 242. It is essential to do it at the right time, for instance next May." The Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. meetings on Palestinian autonomy are due to end 26 May.

"If they have not made any tangible concessions to the Palestinians by that date, we will immediately end these preliminary negotiations," Mr Butrus Ghali told us before adding: "Other peaceful paths will then be explored." What paths? Cairo does not want to go into details at this stage but it is clear that, in its view, a modification of Resolution 242 in favor of the Palestinians would, if the present discussions were to fail, at least enable the absence of any results to be disguised and negotiations to be reopened on new bases and in a new framework. The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs also stated in a press conference to the Foreign Press Association in Cairo Thursday 6 March that in his view "a European initiative, in this case a French initiative, to help settle the Israeli-Arab conflict would only be positive if it were put forward 26 May."

Additional Interview on Autonomy Talks

TA101847 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 10 Mar 80 TA

[Report on interview with Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, by Ehud Ya'ari, in Cairo, on 10 March--recorded]

[Text] The autonomy talks are likely to go beyond the target date, 26 May. It may be assumed that no agreement will be reached by then, and the question is: What will happen after that date? President as-Sadat told the Los Angeles TIMES: In the absence of agreement by that date, a new situation will be created. But, in the same breath, he added: I am sure that Prime Minister Menahem Begin also does not want to stop in the middle of the road.

What does Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, say about the autonomy talks and the date 26 May? Today our correspondent Ehud Ya'ari met with him in Cairo. [Begin recording]

[Ya'ari] Is 26 May the target date for the autonomy talks or a deadline? This afternoon we went to minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, and asked him: Is the optimism being expressed by spokesmen here about the chances of an agreement in time only a tactical maneuver or does he really think that there is still a chance?

[Ghali--in English] I disagree. It is not tactical at all. A negotiator must be an optimist by definition and, as long as we are negotiating, we must be optimists. We had agreed on a certain framework, and we had agreed about a period of 12 months of negotiations.

[Ya'ari translates above into Hebrew and continues] Talks cannot be held without optimism, and it would be an error to declare, right now, 2 months before the date, that chances are nil. Ghali refuses, for the moment, to say what other channels or frameworks he is considering for a continuation of the talks, if there really is a failure on 26 May. I asked him, therefore: Will the foundation for the continuation be the Camp David framework agreement in detail, or only the general principles of Camp David? That is, will the debate be aimed at the establishment of self-administration in the forms agreed upon at Camp David, or will a new way be sought for the actualization of the principles mentioned there. Here is Ghali's reply, which, perhaps, leaves room for more than one interpretation.

[Ghali--in English] I will say that the Camp David documents, certainly, yes, we are talking about general principles which are in the Camp David documents. You must distinguish between the basic principles of the documents and the institutions or the organizations which have been created to implement those principles.

[Ya'ari--translates above into Hebrew and continues] The principles are, after all, identical with the principles of Resolution 242, and we will try to keep them. But maybe we will have to elect new institutions to implement them. If this is so, I asked, have I understood correctly that the Camp David clauses will not necessarily be kept, but only the principles? And here, after what he had said earlier, Ghali retreated somewhat.

[Ghali--in English] No, really, I don't want to enter in the details because what is important is now, at this stage of the negotiations, to continue to negotiate until we reach 26 May. [end recording]

ISRAELI NORMALIZATION COMMITTEE ARRIVES IN CAIRO 10 MAR

NC102142 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 10 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 March--Members of the Israeli team to the normalization committee arrived in Cairo from Tel Aviv tonight on a visit of several days to attend the committee's meetings, which are scheduled to begin Wednesday and last for 2 days. Israeli Ambassador Eliyahu Ben-Elisar and Israeli Embassy staffers received the committee members at Cairo airport. General Tamir, head of the Israeli team to the meetings, arrived in Cairo yesterday.

WORKING TEAM ON PALESTINIAN TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED

TA110915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Mar 80 TA

[Text] As of today, Israel and Egypt will activate a new working team which will deal with arranging the passage of Palestinians through the Al-'Arish border point. Our correspondent reports that the principle was established whereby the same arrangements regarding the Jordan River bridges will be applied, including summer visits.

KHALIL CONGRATULATES MUGABE ON ELECTION VICTORY

NC102033 Cairo MENA in English 2010 GMT 10 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 10--(MENA)--Premier Mustafa Khalil today cabled his congratulations to Zimbabwe's Prime Minister-designate Robert Mugabe on his election victory. Dr Khalil said he was confident that the sweeping victory of the National Front would strengthen the new government in its efforts to achieve national progress. He added that he looked forward to full cooperation between the peoples and governments of Zimbabwe and Egypt.

DEFENSE MINISTER 'ALI LEAVES CAIRO FOR U.S. 9 MAR

NC090917 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 9 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 March--Defense and war production minister, Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, left Cairo for the United States this morning.

ATHERTON LEAVES CAIRO FOR BONN VISIT 10 MAR

NC101305 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 10 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 March--U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton left Cairo for Bonn at noon today on a visit to the FRG.

The U.S. ambassador arrived in Cairo earlier today from Aswan where he attended some of the ceremonies which began yesterday on the occasion of salvaging the Nubian antiquities and transferring the Philae temples to (Ajilka) Island.

In the VIP lounge at the airport, the U.S. ambassador held a closed meeting with James Leonard, the alternate head of the U.S. delegation to the Palestinian autonomy negotiations.

Atherton left Cairo for Bonn after the meeting which lasted about 1 hour. The nature of the talks was not known.

NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN CAIRO 11 MAR

NC110915 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 11 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 March--Netherlands Foreign Affairs Minister Christoph van der Klaauw arrived in Cairo this morning on a 1-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali. The Netherlands minister was met at the airport by Ambassador Muhsin ad-Diwani of the Foreign Ministry.

AMBASSADOR TO IRAN RETURNS HOME AFTER 'HARASSMENT'

JN101916 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1902 GMT 10 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 March--Iraqi Ambassador to Iran Ahmad Husayn as-Samarra'i returned here today. The ambassador stated that Khomeyni's authorities had begun to harass Iraqi diplomats prior to announcing its decision regarding the reduction of diplomatic relations with Iraq to the level of charge d'affaires. He said that the Arab diplomats in the Iranian capital suffer daily from the harassment of Khomeyni's guards. The Iraqi ambassador affirmed that the Iranian regime's practices violate all international laws and norms and the principles of Islam.

It will be recalled that Iraq had asked the Iranian Government to recall its ambassador from Baghdad because he was persona non grata in Iraq.

SOMALI PRESIDENT ENDS VISIT TO IRAQ 10 MARCH

JN100852 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 March--Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre and his delegation left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq. He was accorded an official sendoff at Baghdad International Airport, led by President Saddam Husayn.

GREEK SOCIALIST LEADER ENDS 3-DAY VISIT

Departure Remarks

JN100858 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 March--Andreas Papandreou, leader of the Greek Panhellenic Socialist Movement, left Baghdad this morning after a 3-day visit to Iraq, which came at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Papandreou expressed his satisfaction with the results of his talks with National Command officials, saying that good results were achieved in strengthening relations between the Ba'th Party and the Panhellenic Socialist Movement. He added that the discussions dealt with the exchange of viewpoints on various issues pertinent to the Arab area.

Papandreou and RCC Member and Foreign Relations Office Chief Tariq 'Aziz signed a protocol of cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the Panhellenic Socialist Movement yesterday.

Joint Statement

JN101441 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 10 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 March--The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Greek Panhellenic Socialist Movement have reiterated their firm confrontation of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary challenges and all forms of hegemony and influence.

In a joint statement issued today at the end of a visit to Iraq by the Greek Panhellenic Socialist Movement delegation, the two sides expressed their firm desire to develop the ties of joint cooperation between them in the various fields in the service of their two peoples' issues.

The Greek Panhellenic Socialist Movement delegation highly evaluated Iraq's development and achievements in the various fields and expressed deep satisfaction with President Saddam Husayn's national charter and the struggling pioneer role played by Iraq on the internal, Arab, internationaland nonalined levels.

In turn, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party evaluated the march of the Greek Panhellenic Socialist Movement, its continuous struggle and revolutionary role aimed at achieving Greek independence, progress, national sovereignty and liberation from all forms of foreign hegemony.

The statement pointed out that during their meetings, the two sides discussed ways of bolstering the relations of friendship and cooperation between them. The two sides also reviewed the Arab and international issues of common interest and all that would bolster the strong ties linking the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Greek Panhellenic Socialist Movement and the friendly Arab and Greek peoples.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM UK'S CARRINGTON

JN101139 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 March--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi received a message today from British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Lord Carrington. The message was conveyed by the British ambassador in Baghdad during his meeting with Dr Hammadi this morning. The message includes an official invitation to Dr Hammadi to visit Britain. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SRI LANKA PRESIDENT

JN101522 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 March--President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Sri Lanka President Junius Richard Jayewardene dealing with Iraqi-Sri Lanka relations. The message was conveyed to Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC Member and first deputy prime minister, when he received Sri Lanka Finance and Planning Minister Ronald de Mel here today.

NICARAGUA JUNTA MEMBER ARRIVES FOR VISIT 9 MARCH

JN092250 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 9 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 March--Mrs Violeta Barrios, member of the Revolution Council in Nicaragua, arrived here at dawn today at the head of a delegation on an official visit of several days. Mrs Barrios will hold talks with officials aimed at developing bilateral relations. She will also attend the Ninth General Conference of the General Union of Iraqi Women, which will begin on Tuesday.

PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES DIFFERENCES WITH U.S., PALESTINE ISSUE

LD101645 Paris LE MONDE in French 8 Mar 80 pp 7, 12 LD

[J.G. interview with Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf in Jordan: "We Are Living Beyond Our Means"--date not specified]

[Excerpt] [Question] Do you think it is possible to insure that the people take part in public affairs in the absence of an elected parliament?

[Answer] For us the problem is that we have been unable to organize parliamentary elections since 1967 owing to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. Indeed the constitution makes provision for general elections and not elections which are limited to one part of the country. Since then we have studied various solutions to this problem and finally decided to postpone the next parliamentary session until the government is in a position to organize general elections, in other words, when the occupation has been settled. Meanwhile we have set up an appointed National Consultative Council which does not of course replace parliament but which constitutes a temporary stage in our parliamentary life. Under the terms of our constitution we should in principle hold general elections as soon as possible and we hope to draw up a formula in the near future aimed at extending the people's representation.

[Question] Do you envisage authorizing political parties?

[Answer] Political parties constitute a controversial problem in the developing countries. In the past we have tried the multiparty system in use in some West European countries and in the United States. We have reached the conclusion that the developing countries will have to find a different solution owing to their social and economic structures and to the special conditions imposed by their development process. Nonetheless we hope to provide greater popular participation via dialog with the various forces in the country.

[Question] You often speak of the need to suppress the populations' "consumer mentality." How do you plan to attain that objective?

[Answer] It will not be a simple task. Jordan is caught in a vise between the immense pressures exerted by the Israeli expansionist threat, on the one hand, which forces us to devote a large part of our resources to defense needs, and, on the other hand, the oil-producing countries' great prosperity. Some of the values of the consumer society have slipped into our social and economic life and people have grown used to demanding too much. I think that the easygoing attitude which we have gained from the oil-producing countries has a negative effect on us; our government and our people are living beyond their means. Jordan cannot continue to withstand the economic pressures resulting from the oil price increase unless it abandons the "consumer mentality." The people must understand the need for an austerity policy and be prepared to make sacrifices. Our lax lifestyle is merely widening the gap which exists between the rich and the less well-off.

[Question] More than half of the Jordanian population is of Palestinian origin. Do you think that Jordan is a binational state and that the Palestinians living on its territory have specific national aspirations?

[Answer] Most Jordanians living on the East Bank were born after 1948. It is therefore very difficult to say with any certainty who is Jordanian and who is Palestinian in Jordan. We try not to dwell on this point. I do not accept the term "binational state." The Palestinians and Jordanians do not have different nationalities. They hold Jordanian passports, are Arabs and have one culture. I think we have done a great deal in Jordan in the past 30 years to create a sense of a great national design shared by the whole population. Once the Palestinian problem is settled, in other words, when the Palestinians are able to determine their future and the Israelis withdraw from the occupied territories, everything will automatically be resolved. Those who wish to settle in an independent Palestinian state will be able to do so, while those who so wish will be able to remain Jordanian citizens.

[Question] In 1974 Jordan abandoned its rights over the West Bank to the PLO, described by the Rabat Arab "summit"as the Palestinian people's sole representative. Is that decision irreversible?

[Answer] We have not abandoned our rights over the West Bank. All we said was that we granted the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Palestinians in general the right to self-determination. We maintain our stance on this subject. Moreover we had held that attitude since 1967. In Rabat we merely emphasized our viewpoint and recognized the PLO's responsibility in this specific sphere.

[Question] Do you think, therefore, that the PLO is responsible for the West Bank's future?

[Answer] We recognize the PLO as the sole representative of Palestinians in general. However, we believe that future arrangements within the framework of a settlement must be based on self-determination.

[Question] What do you mean by self-determination?

[Answer] We think that all Palestinians have the right, if they so desire, to exercise their right to decide their future, to say whether they want a separate, independent state on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip or whether they want a state linked with an Arab country, which might be Jordan.

[Question] Does that mean you have not lost all hope of regaining the West Bank?

[Answer] The term "hope" is inappropriate. Some Jordanians think that the recovery of the West Bank is not a source of hope but rather a source of anxiety and that the West Bank will be a burden for our country. Personally, I do not share that view. The Palestinian national entity should have excellent relations with Jordan because we have many economic and cultural ties. However, we insist on the need to implement the right to self-determination. We will never agree to represent the West Bank or the Palestinians without the Palestinian people's express approval. A few years ago As-Sadat expressed hopes for establishing ties between the West Bank and Jordan. King Husayn wants self-determination. We do not want to be accused of trying to establish hegemonist relations with the West Bank or of trying to dominate it.

We sincerely want sound and free relations based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. In recent years Jordan has been accused of having intentions it has never entertained. People wrongly stated that we were looking for an opportunity to regain the West Bank and frustrate the PLO's plans. That is completely untrue. Since the Arab "summit" in Rabat we have stated on several occasions that, even if all the Arab countries agreed to ask Jordan to act on the Palestinians behalf, we would continue to demand that the Palestinian people exercise their right to self-determination.

[Question] Under what circumstances would you be prepared to take part in the Camp David process?

[Answer] Under no circumstances. We can see no eventuality which might justify our rallying to the Camp David solution which we regard as totally unacceptable. However, we are prepared to take part in any peace process which would lead to Israel withdrawing from all the occupied territories and to recognition of Palestinian national rights, including the right to self-determination. So far the Camp David solution has only led to Egypt's isolation, the division of the Arab world and the conclusion of a separate peace.

[Question] Are you being subjected to U.S. pressure urging you to join the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations?

[Answer] We are not being subjected to any direct pressure. We have explained to the Americans on several occasions and at the highest level what we think of Camp David. They know our viewpoint precisely. They have understood that it is not realistic to ask us to change our policy in this sphere. However, we have fairly good relations with the United States.

[Question] Are you receiving U.S. weapons?

[Answer] We have always had relations with the United States in the military sphere.

[Question] Are you receiving modern weapons?

[Answer] The volume of U.S. military aid has been considerably reduced. U.S. weapons are now sent to Egypt. We are turning to France, especially for fighter planes. We are buying tanks from Britain and other military equipment from other Western countries.

[Question] What do you think of the situation in Afghanistan and U.S. attempts to mobilize the Arab against the Soviet threat?

[Answer] I do not think that the United States has succeeded in mobilizing the Arab states against the USSR. The Arab countries have given a reserved welcome to Washington's attempts to enlist them against the USSR over Afghanistan. Indeed, the United States has tried to obtain support from the Islamic countries rather than the Arab countries. For our part we are remaining very vigilant to avoid being drawn into this course because we think it is ridiculous to concentrate all our attention on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan while for 13 years we have had an Israeli occupation of territories belonging to three Arab countries on our doorstep, not to mention the injustice done to the Palestinians. Nonetheless the Israelis enjoy complete military, political and economic support from the United States. Of course we are opposed to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, but we are not acting under Washington's influence. Nor do I think that the Americans have succeeded in distracting our attention from the problem of the Israeli occupation, which we regard as the most crucial of all.

[Question] If the United States were to modify its stance with regard to the Middle East crisis, would you be prepared to give it your support in its struggle against the Soviets?

[Answer] Whatever the U.S. attitude, we think that what the Soviets have done in Afghanistan is wrong and should be opposed. Similarly, whatever the Soviets do in Afghanistan, we still believe Washington's intervention in favor of Israel is a mistake. However, I must add that a substantial change in U.S. Middle East policy could only improve the Arab world's relations with the United States. But it would be wrong to establish linkage between what happens in Kabul and the Middle East crisis. The Afghan problem is entirely different from the Palestinian problem. We are not opposing the USSR on Afghanistan because the United States wants us to but because we think Moscow's stance is unjustifiable. It is obvious that when the United States decides to modify its policy in the Middle East and make it fairer and more impartial the misunderstanding with the Arab world will vanish.

There is no problem between the Arabs and Washington aside from the blind support given to Israel.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON FRENCH PRESIDENT'S VISIT

JN101313 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 80 JN

[Text of 10 March joint Jordanian-French statement on French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's 8-10 March visit to Jordan]

[Text] At the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Excellency the French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing paid a 3-day official visit to Jordan from 8-10 March 1980, accompaned by his wife.

The distinguished guest and his delegation were accorded a warm reception, reflecting the good relations and close cooperation binding the two countries.

The French president expressed the feelings of deep friendship and appreciation he personally and the French people harbor for His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people.

During this visit, official talks were held between the French president and His Majesty King Husayn in an atmosphere in which the spirit of friendship, frankness, mutual respect and full understanding prevailed. The talks dealt particularly with the Middle East situation and conflict and with current international issues of mutual concern and relations between the friendly countries.

On the French side, the following took part in the talks: Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean Francois-Poncet, Industry Minister Andre Giraud, Minister of Foreign Trade Jean-Francois Deniau, Minister of Culture and Communication Jean-Philippe Lecat and his excellency the French ambassador in Amman.

On the Jordanian side, the following took part in the talks: His Highness Prince Muhammad, Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad al-Lawzi, Minister of Court Amir Khammash, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Staff Lt Gen Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan al-Qasim, Minister of Transport Eng 'Ali an-Nusur and Jordanian ambassador in Paris Tahir al-Masri.

The two great leaders attach special importance to the Middle East issue and the situation in the area. These two issues were the subject of thorough discussion by the two leaders.

His excellency the French president and His Majesty King Husayn agreed that the serious and critical situation in the area constitutes a threat to world peace and security, a matter that necessitates the discovery of a comprehensive and just solution for the Middle East dispute. They asserted that such a solution would inevitably establish a just and lasting peace for all the area's peoples and that it is vital and necessary to their security, independence and social and economic development.

The two leaders agreed that the efforts to secure a peaceful settlement, to guarantee the legitimate rights and aspirations of all parties, have become more imperative than ever before. They agreed that the international community is now aware of the need to find an international solution for the Middle East problem, based on the UN Charter, the Security Council resolutions and international principles, involving Israel's full withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish a homeland on their land, and the right of every state in the area to live peacefully within secure, recognized and guaranteed borders.

The two leaders stressed the importance of the vital nature of the Palestinian problem. They expressed their conviction that this problem is not one of refugees but one related to people who are anticipating their legitimate presence. These people should be enabled to practice their right to self-determination within the framework of a peaceful, just and lasting settlement.

In order to achieve a just and lasting international settlement to the Middle East problem, the French president and His Majesty King Husayn agreed on the need to exert extensive efforts and to hold talks with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, whose representation has attained wide-scale recognition on the international arena and within the framework of the United Nations and its resolutions.

The two great leaders expressed their concern over the current situation in Lebanon, asserting their support for Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

His excellency the French president and His Majesty King Husayn noted with satisfaction the identity of their two countries views on the major international issues. They expressed their concern over and interest in the tension that has recently appeared in various world areas.

They asserted their common commitment to the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

The two leaders affirmed their conviction that it is necessary to establish relations among nations on the basis of mutual respect and the principles governing international relations, especially those stipulated in the UN Charter concerning the impermissibility of interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the need to cooperate for the sake of preserving, strengthening and protecting world peace and security through constructive spirit and consultations.

The two leaders affirmed their rejection of all foreign interventions detrimental to world peace and security. The existing situation in Afghanistan drew their particular attention and concern. They expressed the hope that an acceptable formula will be reached to create the right atmosphere that will enable the Muslim Afghan people to exercise their right to determine their own destiny.

The two leaders expressed the conviction that Arab-European dialog provides a good atmosphere for serving the mutual interests of the EEC countries and the Arab states. They stressed the need and importance of intensifying the dialog.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed his interest in the French president's proposal for a tripartite Arab-European-African dialog. He also expressed his satisfaction with and his readiness to actually contribute to the French president's initiative of setting up the Arab world institute, which is aimed at increasing knowledge about the Arab world and achieving a better exchange of knowledge in the fields of language and culture between the Arab states and France, and later between the Arab states and Europe.

His excellency the president of France and His Majesty King Husayn reviewed the relations between the two countries and affirmedtheir resolve and determination to develop the cooperation between their two friendly countries.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the encouraging results achieved in the field of bilateral economic relations and the fruitful implementation of the first French-Jordanian protocol signed in 1977 on financing the phosphate plant in Aqaba.

The two leaders discussed new areas to strengthen the relations between the two countries. They paid special attention to industrial projects relating to the exploration for and exploitation of mineral and petroleum resources, the production of fertilizers, electricity and cement as well as the automobile industry.

The two sides expressed their eadiness to develop the current cooperation in the telecommunications field. The French side expressed its readiness to offer a new loan under exceptional terms for the establishment of one or several projects in harmony with the nature of French loans and the needs of economic development in Jordan.

His excellency the president of France and His Majesty King Husayn also expressed their pleasure over the positive development in the cultural relations between their two countries under the cultural and arts cooperation agreement concluded on 16 June 1965. They declared their satisfaction with the good results achieved by the cooperation agreement on television. They noted in particular the success of the French program on Jordanian television and the possibility of developing it. They expressed their common desire to increase this cooperation, especially in the exchange of programs and training. A special committee of the competent departments in the two countries will be formed for this purpose.

The two leaders noted the good results achieved in the cooperation on the subject of maps and the continuous growth in the relations between French and Jordanian universities.

The two great leaders also expressed their desire to reach firm results in the new areas which developed in all these fields during the French president's visit.

His excellency the president of France and Madam Valery Giscard d'Estaing expressed their profound gratitude for the great hospitality accorded them during their visit to Jordan. His excellency the French president expressed his profound thanks to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government and people for the warm welcome, which reflects the strong ties between the two heads of state and the two countries.

The French president addressed an official invitation to His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to visit France. His majesty graciously accepted the invitation. A date for the visit will be fixed later.

French President Interviewed

JN101904 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Mar 80 JN

[Text] His Excellency French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing has stated that during his talks with His Majesty King Husayn, he sensed that viewpoints were in close agreement regarding the situation in the Middle East and the international situation in general.

In an interview with Jordanian television, his excellency the French president said that relations between France and Jordan are witnessing an important development and that there is a strong will to promote these relations further.

President Giscard d'Estaing expressed his admiration for Jordanian economic development and the importance of the projects which are being implemented and the seriousness with which they are being implemented. He hopes that cooperation between France and Jordan will develop further and extend to wider spheres.

The French president expressed his belief that opportunities are open to the Jordanian individual, who is characterized by special qualitative traits, to progress further, develop the area and be a pioneer in absorbing European technology. Therefore, nothing prevents Jordan from being the first state to spread technology in the area.

At the end of the television interview, President Giscard d'Estaing expressed hope that his visit has given a chance to French public opinion to become acquainted with Jordanian achievements and the degree of progress and development made in this country.

MINISTER LEAVES FOR RABAT TO ATTEND JERUSALEM COMMITTEE MEETING

JN101525 Amman JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Amman, 10 March--A Jordanian Delegation headed by Marwan al-Qasim, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Amman today to participate in the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee which will begin in Rabat tomorrow, Tuesday.

Mr Al-Qasim stated that the committee will discuss means to insure the implementation of the resolutions of the Islamic Foreign Minister's Conference which was held in Fez in July.

Mr Al-Qasim added that the recent UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel's aggressive policy, the unanimous approval--including the U.S. approval--of this resolution, the stand proclaimed by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing yesterday and the statements made by senior officials in Germany, Britain and the Netherlands are all confirmations of the world's understanding of the justice of our cause.

It will be recalled that the Jerusalem Committee, which is chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco, includes 13 Islamic states.

ARMY COMMANDER RETURNS TO BEIRUT FROM DAMASCUS

NC091732 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Army commander Gen Victor Khuri and the military delegation accompanying him returned to Beirut this evening after a visit to Damascus during which General Khuri held discussions with top-level Syrian military officials.

The discussions included a followup on coordination between both fraternal armies on the security and military levels, particularly in the wake of the Lebanese Army's takeover of the Arab Deterrent Forces' positions in the eastern and southeastern areas of the capital. An outline on cooperation between both fraternal armies during the forthcoming phase was also drawn up. An atmosphere of fraternal and mutual trust pervaded the meetings, whose participants agreed to continue them as well as contacts between both army commands to insure the flow of information on the security situation and to attain the highest degree of coordination.

Immediately upon his arrival to Beirut, the army commander phoned President Ilyas Sarkis and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, beiefing them on his talks in the Syrian capital.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS MEETS PALESTINIAN LEADERS

Abu Jihad, Abu al-Walid

NC072136 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Mar 80 NC

[Text] This evening Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met at his home in Ad-Dawhah with a delegation from the Palestinian leadership which included Abu Jihad and Abu al-Walid. During the 1-hour meeting they discussed the current situation in general and means to bring about the implementation of the latest cabinet resolutions.

After the meeting Abu Jihad said: Prime Minister al-Huss reviewed the principles declared by the Lebanese Cabinet. We asked for clarifications of some aspects which Prime Minister al-Huss explained to us so as to convey the picture to the brothers in the PLO Executive Committee which will study the statement and announce our stand on it. Asked about the PLO's stand on the principles announced by the government on detente, Abu Jihad said: In principle, we believe that the spirit of the statement and its principles prompt and [Palestinian] resistance to respond to a great many of them, particularly those related to the aspects of strengthening the Arabism of Lebanon and rejecting the Camp David accord and all forms of cooperation and dealings with the Israeli enemy.

Yasir 'Arafat

NC101527 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Mar 80 NC

[Text] At 1500 today, Prime Minister al-Huss met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of Faruq Qaddumi--alias Abu al-Lutf--and Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani. During the meeting, which was held at the prime minister's residence in Ad-Dawhah, the domestic and Arab situations as well as ways for over all cooperation to ease the situation were reviewed. 'Arafat did not make any statement after the meeting while Qaddumi contented himself with saying that the meeting comes within the framework of the consultations that his excellency the prime minister is holding. He added that the PLO Executive Committee would meet tomorrow to declare its attitude on various developments.

AL-ASAD SPEAKS AT REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY RALLY

JN082335 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 8 Mar 80 JK

[Speech by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at a rally held at the Damascus University auditorium on 8 March to mark the 17th anniversary of the 8 March Revolution--live]

[Excerpts] Brothers, the anniversary of the revolution comes at a time when we are in the heart of the revolution. The 17th anniversary of the revolution comes at a time when we are more determined to continue the revolution. Let everyone be assured that the anniversary of the revolution comes at a time when we are in the youthful years of this revolution. [applause] On this occasion we say: Whoever thinks that we came to rest or to allow the enemies of the revolution to rest, errs. [applause] We do not want a quiet and peaceful life if this life is not a rejuvenating and continuous revolution. [applause] Let everyone be assured that as Ba'thists, progressivists, nationalists and pan-Arabs, we have as much ability to confront and defy and to continue the struggle as we have love, sincerity and faithfulness. [applause]

It seems that they [not further identified] sometimes erroneously imagine that the raging emotions and sentiments that each one of us has toward our people, homeland and nation is a weakness. This is what certain acts of behavior and events confirm. We will continue to have these sentiments and we will continue to be sincere and faithful to our people's and our nation's issue. For this reason, firmness and decisiveness will be our inspiration and guide in every battle we wage. [applause] Those murderers, criminals and cowards will be mere tiny and base houseflies in confronting the forces and masses of the revolution. [applause] We want a society in which fraternity and love prevail. For this reason, we should fight and crush the enemies of fraternity and love. [applause]

The March revolution anniversary comes as a reply to the secession [following the Egyptian-Syrian unity] to remind us of something we cannot forget and experience all the time; namely, unity. The anniversary of the revolution fills us with the concept of unity and the cause of unity. We cannot pass through this anniversary without remembering unity and stressing the importance of unity, despite the fact that this hope seems more and more remote and despite the various setbacks which sometimes arouse our anxiety and our doubt concerning the possibility of achieving unity.

Brothers, the setbacks that beset the attempts at unity should not lead us to despair but should prompt us to intensify our efforts. They should lead us to further determination so as to overcome the colonialist determination, which has resolved not to give any chance for the success of any unionist act.

We always talk about the removal of the effects of aggression, always bearing in mind the 1967 aggression. We are now faced by two aggressions: a strategic and a tactical aggression. The strategic colonialist aggression is the one which produced the fragmentation of the Arab nation. The tactical aggression is the one which produced the occupation of land and the dispersal of more of our people in 1967. Just as we have to struggle to remove the effects of the 1967 aggression, we should also struggle to remove the effects of the strategic aggression which produced fragmentation. If we succeed in removing the effects of the strategic aggression, we will be automatically able to remove the effects of the strategic aggression of 1967. [applause]

Just as we have to offer sacrifices and pay the price of removing the effects of the 1967 aggression, we should also offer sacrifices and pay the price of removing the effects of this strategic aggression which has led to fragmentation.

I have just said that the anniversary of the revolution comes at a time when we are in the heart of the revolution. I would like to add that the march of the revolution is a historic mission and deed. The carrying out of historic missions and deeds cannot be free of hardships. Whenever the positive interaction between the vanguards and the masses of the people grows, the march of the revolution accelerates and surmounts the difficulties and obstacles facing it. This interaction has been embodied in our country in various fields since the corrective movement is confrontation of all the challenges faced by the revolution.

Brothers, in the wake of the October War, the campaign to produce despair in the Arab nation escalated and took the form of a large-scale psychological campaign. Following As-Sadat's visit to the occupied land, this campaign assumed new dimensions and intensified with every new concession made by As-Sadat to the enemy and every fresh rapprochment between them. The phenomenon of violence and crime in Syria was one of the results of this hostile campaign, which followed the October War and intensified following As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. [passage indistinct]

Brothers, I have said that our premises have been clear since the corrective movement. I have mentioned some of these premises. I have also said that I will not speak in detail on this subject, but will mention excerpts so that some of the landmarks on the map of action after 1970 will be highlighted before us. In light of these premises, we took measures. I would like to mention some examples which confirm our sincerity and seriousness.

Under the slogan of bringing about the individual's liberty and dignity, rather, strengthening the individual's liberty and dignity, we said that all bans against any Syrian citizen from returning to Syria should be lifted. There were thousands upon thousands. If my memory serves me correctly, I think the figure was close to 20,000 Syrian citizens who were barred from returning to Syria. We said that it is the natural right of every Syrian citizen to return to his country whenever he wishes. Nobody has the right to prevent any citizen from returning to his homeland.

Those who wanted to return, returned to the country. Instructions were given to the competent security organs not to arrest anybody immediately after the corrective movement. This continued in effect until the acts of murder and assassination began. Despite this, it was affirmed that the detention of these fugitives should be restricted and be within the framework of the law. Despite the acts of murder and crime which have taken place over several years and despite what has happened, the detainees in our country are few in number. I recall a conversation which I had with Minister 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi after he had returned from Hamah. He said: I went to Hamah a few days ago thinking that the number of detainees from this city exceeded 2,000. When I reached Hamah and asked the official in charge of security, he told me that all the detainees number about 150. Of course, some of them had been released and there were about 150 left. 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi told me: If I, as a minister, thought that there was a large number of detainees, in Hamah alone, the ordinary citizen also would imagine that such a large number are under arrest.

The number of detainees in Syria is small. However, what is painful and regrettable is that, despite all this, some of those trying to outbid others demand freedom and talk about freedom. None of these, though, have come forth to defend a single assassinated citizen. They have defended the murderers under the slogan of being the supporters of freedom. What is this freedom that they are advocating? Are they themselves free? They are slaves, the enemies of freedom and the traitors to the people and their issues; and freedom is the primary issue of the people. [applause] The freedom they are advocating is the freedom for more killing.

Immediately after the corrective movement, we also began to discuss the idea of the National Progressive Front as the first and basic step on the road to consolidating national unity. We exerted efforts and held discussions that lasted an entire year. The front achieved a charter and program of action and the National Progressive Front was established under the slogan of consolidating national unity. At that time we viewed it as step that should be developed in the future in such a way that every citizen could have a place in this front. We entrenched this principle in the constitution and confirmed that this front is a developing one which leads the country. Several discussions have been held on various occasions concerning the concept of developing the front, and we have recently begun to work on the matter seriously.

We established constitutional institutions which are essential for the exercise of freedom. We established the People's Assembly and the local administration councils elected by the people. We began to improve the methods of action in our party and popular organizations.

Naturally, our determination to develop the army and the armed forces was no less than our determination to develop other sectors. After the corrective movement, our army took a gigantic stride, despite the burdens this entails on each of us. However, this is demanded by all of us. Although getting into military details is not usual, I would like to say that our army has developed threefold from what it was in 1970. I would like to give a figure which is not a secret. Israel knows it and all our enemies know it. You too should know it. We had hundreds of tanks before 1970, but we now have about 3,000 tanks. [applause] We had less than 1,000 tanks and now have about 3,000 tanks. Once again I say that this is not a secret. Israel knows it.

When Islam was, in some people's opinion, in danger, I and some of my colleagues were its honest defenders. None of those people raised their voice to defend Islam at that time. When Islam was in a crisis, we did not hear them defending it. I am confident that they then heard that Islam was in trouble, but they still did not defend it. Today they raise the slogan of defending Islam when there are no longer any differences about Islam. They are now raising this slogan at a time when we have consolidated Islamic values and called for faith. Under this slogan they are committing the ugliest acts as concerns Islam, its Prophet and God.

One who believes in something does not exploit it. One who believes in religion does not exploit religion; one who believes in Islam does not exploit Islam; one who believes in Islam does not commit acts contrary to the directives of Islam.

As-Sadat goes to Jerusalem and prays in the Al-Aqsa mosque while the Israeli soldiers are there with their weapons and shoes inside the Mosque. This is a well-known fact. Nevertheless, As-Sadat is Muslim. I have not heard them say one word about As-Sadat's Islam. Of course I know that there is more than one definition of a Muslim. At the time of the Prophet the one who said, "There is no God but God and Muhammad is his Prophet," was a Muslim. For 30 years or more I have been praying and saying: There is no God but God and Muhammad is his Prophet. [applause] Nevertheless, those people have not accepted my Islam. What is then missing in me; there must be something I need in order to complement my Islam. Do I need a Jerusalem trip? [cheers and applause] I had this in mind because I tell you honestly that prior to As-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem I had not heard an attack against me from the angle of my Islamic faith. Therefore, I asked: Do I need to follow As-Sadat's example and go to Jerusalem so that they will recognize my Islam? However, what is clear to me is that I need a good conduct certificate. It seems that this certificate should come to me from Washington. [applause] Before this I used to believe--as I said--that I am a Muslim and have the qualifications to be a Muslim. After their campaign I began to think that, from their viewpoint, I need a good conduct certificate from Washington. And to obtain this certificate I need qualifications, which I honestly tell you that I do not possess [applause], especially since Washington--in order to give me this certificate as it has given it to others--stipulates certain abilities, so that one who obtains this certificate should be Arab in form and American in essence. [applause] Talents are bequeathed by nature and, for better or worse, I was not born with these talents. [applause] But I am a Muslim who believes in God despite them. One who reaches beyond his country and nation is not Muslim at all. One who sells himself to the foreigner has nothing to do with Islam or religion. One who becomes an obedient servant of the enemies of people, homeland and God has no link at all with Islam. [applause] I was a Muslim and will remain a Muslim. Syria will remain a lofty citadel on which the flag of Islam will fly. The opponents will be defeated because they are the enemies of the homeland and the people as well as the enemies of Islam, which they are exploiting! [applause]

It is natural that the phenomenon of violence is extraneous to our customs, country and people. It is also natural that the flimsy, transparent curtain with which this phenomenon has tried to cover itself will not benefit it at all. We should remember that they have committed these acts while our country possesses an acceptable developmental pace and stability. We should also remember that these acts have occurred during great historical change taking place in the region. The focus is currently on Syria because Syria raises the banner of steadfastness and confrontation and because Syria has the ability to give a meaning to steadfastness and confrontation. In addition, the continuation of Syria's steadfastness means the continuation of the Arab nation's steadfastness. [applause] The focus is on Syria because Syria proclaims a loud "no" to capitulation and "yes" to steadfastness. Syria also says "yes" to a just peace. We want peace, but we absolutely reject humiliation and capitulation.

I have previously said that we want peace and reject humiliation and capitulation. No matter what, they will not hear anything different from me in the future. [applause]

To us, to the whole world and as outlined in the UN resolutions, peace means Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the acknowledgement of the Palestinian's inalienable rights, including their right to determine their own destiny and set up their independent state. Peace under the Camp David accords means Israel's false withdrawal from Sinai--and it has not yet withdrawn--so that eventually it would be in a position to take all Egypt.

To us, peace means that Arab flags should fly over the liberated territories. Under the Camp David accords, peace means that the Israeli flag should be hoisted in an official ceremony in Cairo, while Israel is still occupying Egyptian, Syrian and Palestinian territory and is still adamantly denying Palestinian rights.

To us, peace means we should exercise our free will. Under the Camp David accords, peace means that the As-Sadat regime should keep Egypt's doors wide open to a Zionist economic, cultural and psychological invasion. It also means that Israel should continue to expand settlements.

To us, peace means a step further toward Arab unity. Under the Camp David accords, peace means Egypt should disengage from the Arab nation and move closer to usurper and aggressor Israel.

We do not make any distinction between one Arab territory and another, while the Camp David partners insist on making a distinction between Egyptian territory and other Arab territories.

The whole world calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state, while As-Sadat and his two allies talk about autonomy. The whole world knows, and the Israeli opposition leaders confirm, that the autonomy farce is a figment of Begin's imagination which he presented during his visit to Ismailia. On the other hand, As-Sadat presents autonomy as the distillation of his genius and most ideal solution.

Israel stresses daily that it will not withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza at any time in the future, and As-Sadat does not stop speaking about great hopes for the success of the autonomy farce. Despite their meager means, our heroic people in the occupied territory are resisting and waging a mighty struggle against the plot. But As-Sadat is using every material and psychological pressure on these people to force them to surrender to the plot.

The world condemns Israel's policy and aggression and supports the just Arab cause. But As-Sadat considers his close friend Begin as the messenger of peace, and his own Arab nation as the enemy of peace. As-Sadat makes peace with the Israeli leaders and slanders the Arab nation, to which he has turned his back, forgetting that Egypt is part of this nation.

As for the third party, or the full partner as they like to call it, or the honest broker as it likes to call itself, it is determined not to annoy the Israeli leaders even in words. It is not prepared to draw a line between U.S. and Israeli interests in this region. To the United States, therefore, Israeli interests must come first, before anything else.

The Camp David partners believe that in order to carry out their accords they must strike at whoever stands in the way of the accords. Thus we see them doing what they wish and trying to play on our feelings and religious beliefs. The United States has suddenly become concerned about our Islam--not in Palestine and its vicinity, but in places where they can use our religion as a weapon against the Soviet Union.

It is indeed amazing. Your feelings toward us Muslims here are dead. But there, you are furious and afire, but only so that we will burn first before others.

Iran is a Muslim country which has suffered a great deal from injustice, coercion and imperialist domination. Why are you so hostile to it?

At any rate, as I said a short while ago, our Islam is strong and solid. The flag of Islam will continue to wave on high in this country and in all Muslim countries, and the principles of Islam will continue as usual to guide our life.

I say once again that a terrible plot is going on as shown by this psychological warfare against us. This warfare needs material, and it is regrettable and painful that the imperialists have found people in our country willing to supply such material by committing crimes, which have no purpose other than serving the enemies of the homeland, nation and the conspiracy.

Brothers, this country belongs to all of us. Those who commit the crimes are the enemies of the country and the people. We will give the murderers ample opportunity to desist from their crimes; but, after that, we will have to settle our accounts with them. [applause] They must understand the gravity of what they are doing and desist. There is not much time left.

I would like to emphasize here that our decision as a leadership is to be decisive with the murderers, the enemies of the revolution, Arabism and Islam. I make a distinction between the murderers and others. I would also like to emphasize to every friend and foe, and every devout citizen and plotter, that taking decisive action is a simple uncomplicated matter for us. [applause] I am saying this in the interest of the people and the homeland. We cannot possibly be lenient with the murderers.

Let every person in this country speak his mind. Let every political or nonpolitical group in this country express its opinion. Let us hold a dialog on everything. Let us discuss and argue about everything. All this is acceptable and most welcome. We are not against the discussion of any subject. This is our country and it is our right to help build and strengthen it. It is the right of every individual and group to come to us and say: This is my opinion on this, and this is my opinion on that. Our national and pan-Arab duty and responsibility demand that we hear these opinions. We will not turn a deaf ear to any opinion. We are ready to hear any opinion with due attention, appreciation and respect and to adopt such an opinion if we are all convinced about it. [applause]

I would like to emphasize that we are very happy when a citizen or group of citizens come forth to contribute an opinion, an effort or anything toward the reconstruction of this homeland. This homeland has room for everyone, for all of us. There is room for every devout citizen wanting to help strengthen this country. There is no embarrassment. We are only a part of this people. Our dignity and strength stems from the dignity and strength of the people; therefore, we cannot possibly insist on something when it is wrong. In whatever we say and do, we are ready to face the people and say: We were wrong in saying this or we were wrong in doing that--if someone argues with us and convinces us that we were indeed wrong in what we said or did.

We will have no scruples about standing up and saying that we were mistaken and in rectifying our mistakes, because the matter does not concern just one person or some persons but an entire homeland and people. There is no justification for anyone insisting on a mistake when such a mistake is pointed out to him.

I hereby declare so all can hear that the crimes being committed will not have the slightest effect on our march. Our march cannot be hampered, because it is founded on basic convictions concerning the interest of the people, homeland and nation. [applause]

Therefore, I declare that if anyone hopes to change our position on the capitulation deal in the region, he may as well give up. But if anyone has anything that will benefit this homeland in strengthening the steadfastness against this deal, foiling this deal, toppling some of the partners of this deal and bolstering the pan-Arab stand, then he is most welcome. We will hear his logical opinion with a spirit of patriotism and fraternity; and he, too, will hear our opinion with the same spirit and all frankness.

Nobody should blame us when we face the killers with disgust and disdain, since there has been no limit to their crimes. What did they do in Aleppo? They killed great ulema. There is no need for me to name them; they killed some of our great Muslim ulema. They are still challenging our great Muslim ulema in Aleppo. To be honest, our great Muslim ulem in Aleppo are in great anguish as a result of these crimes. They are trying to do something, but murderers are murderers. That is why I said that if these people do not desist, then the government will have to take action in the interest of every citizen in Aleppo and elsewhere.

Brothers, before I conclude my remarks on this subject, I would like to say that the conservative sector, to which I referred at the closing session of the seventh regional congress of the party, must play its role in confronting this savage onslaught. I must play a patriotic role. When I referred to this sector and its effectiveness and stand with the revolution at the closing session of the congress, I was serious in what I was saying. I said that in light of what I experienced in the past years.

In this respect, and from this rostrum, I would like to thank and hail the Damascus Chamber of Commerce and the Damascus merchants [applause] for this patriotic stand which they expressed in the cable and the statement they issued today. They demonstrated adherence to national interests and a true understanding of these interests. They were true to themselves and their homeland in this stand when they showed their understanding of the revolution's concern for the interest of all citizens. I am not being pompous, brothers, but Damascus--a great historical capital of the Arabs--will forever remain the source of our pride and dignity. [applause] Damascus will forever remain the capital of patriotism, Arabism and Islam. [applause]

Regarding Lebanon, our twin Arab brother whose anguish was felt here more than elsewhere and whose tribulation became our immediate concern, we are still pledged to do all we can for the sake of the Lebanese people's well-being. We have no objective in Lebanon other than seeing that country regain its strength, seeing its people live in love, harmony and fraternity, and seeing Lebanon resume its role as a country working for the well-being of itself and the Arab nation.

We in Syria are committed to our fraternal and national role in Lebanon. As I said, our only objective is to see that fraternal country regain its strength. Our recent decision to redeploy the forces was necessitated by circumstances and developments in the region. We made it a point that this decision will help create a suitable atmosphere for achieving national accord in Lebanon. We consider national accord as the right step toward a regaining of Lebanon's strength.

In the Arab arena, we seek the best relations with the fraternal states and stress and strongly support Arab solidarity so it can play its role in confronting plans hostile to our nation. We also adhere to the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and insist on its importance. We will continue to increase the efficacy and develop the potentials of this front. Our quest for unity cannot be shaken; we are advocates of Arab unity and will not hestitate to support any unity action presented to us.

The Palestine question is the central issue of our struggle and the substance of our cause. We consider the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We will continue to support and strengthen the Palestinian revolution against all potential dangers. Syria and the Palestinian revolution are in one trench, something which must be understood by both friend and foe. [applause]

On this occasion, on your behalf I wholeheartedly greet out kinsmen and brothers in the occupied territory. [applause] I hail their great steadfastness in confronting the savage occupation and the conspiracy to which they are exposed by the Camp David partners. Backing them and their steadfastness is a major national duty. They fully deserve this support.

Brother citizens, during the past year the international arena witnessed many developments which have contributed to escalating international tension and sharpening the conflict between the two superpowers. The only bright spot in these developments was the Iranian Islamic Revolution, [applause] which has delivered the friendly Iranian people from coercion, and placed Iran in its proper place as an Islamic country adopting pioneering stands in support of right and justice and against Zionism, imperialism and foreign intervention. We greet this revolution, stand by it and give it every possible support.

I seize this opportunity to say once again that our stand is in the trench of freedom, the trench of struggling peoples and just issues. I greet the people of Zimbabwe who, through their struggle, sacrifices and steadfastness, achieved a great victory over racism and attained their independence. We wish this people full success in the postindependence phase, the phase of struggle for progress.

I must also stress that we continue to consolidate the ties of friendship and cooperation with our friends the socialist bloc countries, headed by the USSR. [applause] I would also like to emphasize that the imperialists and colonialists should not hope, rather they should not be under an illusion, that they can shake the mutual confidence between us and our friends. [applause]

I frankly and truly say that the Soviet Union is the real friend of all peoples fighting for their freedom and independence. [applause] In my opinion, the imperialists have discovered from experience that they cannot weaken this friendship. But this does not mean that they will stop their attempts to destroy this friendship if they can. We know that we need the assistance of this big friend in our current battle. We must not miscalculate. This is a big battle. Israel is backed by the United States with large quantities of sophisticated weapons. Therefore, how can we possibly shut our eyes to a maneuver aimed at dragging us into a conflict with this big friend and closing the door through which we obtain assistance in the fiercest confrontation that we and all Arabs have in this age?

I know that the strengthening of this friendship is the desire of all factions of our people. Our people know what it means to have the Soviet Union as a sincere friend. [applause] Therefore, it must be clear when we say that we are non-alined. We are not equating the two superpowers. It is impossible and inconceivable to equate the one who gives arms to our enemy to occupy our territory with the one who gives us arms and political support to liberate our territory and return our people to their villages and homes. We cannot equate the one who is against us with the one who supports us.

I conclude my speech by seizing the opportunity of our celebration of the 17th anniversary of the 8 March revolution to reassert that the reconstruction and protection of the homeland is everyone's responsibility. The resources of the homeland belong to everyone. Therefore, any harm done to this homeland is harm to everyone.

AL-ASAD INTERVIEWED ON LOCAL, ARAB AFFAIRS

JN091936 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1637 GMT 9 Mar 80 JN

["Text" of interview granted by Syrian President Hafiz Al-Asad to the Kuwaiti paper AR-RAY AL-AMM--date not given]

[Text] Question: Allow me, Mr President, to begin with a question on the internal situation. There are rumors disseminated by hostile information media about Syria. Can we hear an explanation of this subject from you?

Answer: We in Syria were not completely taken aback by all that is taking place around us. After having taken successive stands since 1970 and until now, particularly after 1973 and after As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, we expected to be faced with difficulties and troubles. We are still facing less than what we expected. This was our evaluation at most of the leaderships sessions. It is not merely an opinion I say now. I said this particularly after As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem because the scheme stemmed from the concept that after As-Sadat's visit as a representative of Egypt, the other Arabs would have no other alternative but to follow his example. Of course, our reaction in Syria was immediate and we waited for no one's opinion. We did so not out of belittlement of other people's opinion, but out of obvious facts we supposed were unanimously agreed upon by the Arabs. We supposed and we still suppose that the Arabs will stand collectively and spontaneously against As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Therefore, we took a stand immediately, without discussing the matter with anyone.

We were not forgetful at that time of the psychological campaigns which began the day on which As-Sadat visited Jerusalem. There is no doubt that many of us in the Arab homeland--whether they are officials or not--might have been influenced by these propaganda campaigns, to the point of saying: As Arabs what can we do without Egypt? All of us, including Egypt, were not able to achieve a military balance with Israel, so how can this be done when Egypt walked out? These words began to be reiterated immediately and the hostile propaganda concentrated on them and tried to incorporate them into our minds.

We in Syria have confronted such campaigns scientifically. At the same time, we have realized that we will be the target of the ones who launched such campaigns, the ones who planned As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. The impact of this campaign will be great. We said clearly at that time that we in Syria will pay the price first of all and that other Arab brothers may pay a certain price, which might not be the same price but they will certainly pay a certain price. We firmly resolved to endure paying this anticipated price and to endure the confrontation of these anticipated difficulties. These are the meanings we stressed in our successive meetings and in our leading establishments. I also said this in Arab meetings, particularly at the meetings of the Steadfastness and Confrontating Front. I do not mean by this that we perfectly know how every problem will develop, where it will emerge, which person will be hired to work for others in the interest of foreign forces. I do not mean this. What I mean is that the difficulties will emerge before us and we will bear the consequences of this stand we adopted.

Hence, we can understand some of the assassinations committed were in Syria. We have in Syria a group originating from the Muslim Brotherhood organization. This group carried out a number of assassinations. Some persons sent from outside Syria cooperate with it. Those persons practice various propaganda acts, disseminate misleading slogans and try to implicate with them some other factions of the Muslim Brotherhood organization. This organization, as is well-known, has not been one organization for some time. The faction that began these acts is a wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, which dragged with it individuals from other wings. It is still trying in various ways to implicate the whole Muslim Brotherood organization.

However, what is regrettable is that what is said and rumored abroad is one thing and what is taking place in Syria is something different. I said several assassinations were perpetrated in our country and there are a number of armed people who are being chased by the competent authorities. But this is one thing and the country's ability to stand fast in something else. It is difficult for such acts to achieve any basic aim in our country, even if some foreign propaganda organs cooperate with them. They try to distort the face of the country; they try to create an impression that Syria is incapable of steadfastness or of confronting Camp David and that it is incapable of forming a strong facade for the Arab nation, on the one hand, and incapable of offering appropriate support to the Arab brothers in case of need, one the other.

What I would like to point out with complete confidence is that Syria will remain as it was before standing fast in the face of Camp David, not hesitant at all to confront Israel, and that Syria will not yield under pressures, threats and even Israeli military acts. We will continue working for the promotion of the main factors of this steadfastness. Simultaneously, we affirm that we are ready to stand by the side of our Arab brothers in any battle waged against them. They will find in us a useful force that is worthy of respect.

As for the riots, which I referred to, I would like to say that they do not constitute danger against us and that they do not constitute any losses that have value. This is so despite the fact that its planners aim at diverting our attention from our main battle, exhausting our power and diverting our political and military interests so that most of these interests will be squandered in facing such problems.

We are alert to this matter and, therefore, we are giving our attention--as we were in the past--to the confrontation of the basic dangers and to the exertion of efforts in the face of these dangers. We will give the riots only the little efforts they deserve.

Question: It is said that there are other factions and that Christians were arrested in bombing incidents within this framework.

Answer: That is absolutely untrue. The faction committing these acts is rejected by all factions in our country, whether they are political or religious. It is also rejected by the Muslim Arab citizens first and by all Arab citizens in Syria next. I say in Syria because we are talking about Syria. Arrest is confined to this faction, which practices armed action whether by planning or by executing it. We arrest only those among the Muslim Brotherhood grouping who practice rioting. We have even set free a large number of them who were not proved to have practiced armed action. The number of those arrested is small and we do not have Christians in detention, nor do we know that Christian citizens joined the Muslim Brotherhood group, especially that armed group.

Question: This is not what I meant [words indistinct].

Answer: This is something else. Of course, we have proof that there is contact and cooperation between the armed people in Syria and some factions in Lebanon. I do not think it is useful to elaborate on this matter now. I reaffirm that we have documents, weapons and people.

Question: I recall that you once said that there are foreign quarters and that the state has documents about foreign quarters which support these acts of terrorism. These foreign quarters are not defined, but there are whispers that they may be Arab sides.

Answer: I said it is firmly established for us that there is contact between them and factions in Lebanon, and we may name these factions in the future. In my speech at the regional congress, I said that some members of this group admitted their connection with Israel and I said that the concerned quarters will make announcements on this matter at the conclusion of investigations.

By the way, a few days ago I asked the security organs: Which of you have not made an announcement? The reply was that the matter is due to an incomplete, missing link. We expect this link to be complete soon enough. This missing link is a number of people who are still at large. The competent authorities were instructed to announce what they have regardless of the missing links. When the fugitives are captured in the future, we will make public what they say.

As for the possibility of the presence of a link between some of them and some Arab brothers, I do not wish such a thing will happen because I think that the one who follows such a path will not reap anything good.

At a time when we care for every Arab's security, we have to reply to a greeting with a better greeting. In this respect, some of our security officials say that some multifaceted facilities are being made available to this clique. This is what we are trying to make sure of. We also wish that this will not be true because it is not in the interest of anyone. But certainly they will pay the price. He who attacks Syria attacks himself, and this is a folly for which no one should be rewarded.

Syria was and still is a beacon of Islam. It was, still is, and will also remain a beacon of pan-Arabism. We have begun, especially after 1970, to entrench and strengthen the Islamic values and materialize them in the form of Islamic traditions. This stems from our belief in Islam for the Muslims among us and in Christianity for the Christians among us, as well as our conviction that we must stick to our spiritual values due to the requisites of our social, pan-Arab and national life. This is what we will continue to follow in the future.

It is regrettable that some have exploited this atmosphere and exploited our belief in the values of Islam and our adherence to it. Under the slogan of Islam and adherence to it, they began to exercise acts that are the peak of distortion of all the big meanings of Islam. Through their deeds they work for the weakening of the peoples' belief in Islam and behave as if Islam does not march along with life, its needs and modernization. This is so despite the fact that Islam is the religion of life, civilization, love and tolerance. It is the religion that is capable of making us act in order to enrich life and ourselves.

What I want to stress at the end is that the banner of Islam in our country will remain lofty and fluttering because it is a matter of creed and belief that is not subject to reactions. They will not succeed in their attempts to distort the picture of Islam. This picture will remain the real and pure picture.

Question: Regarding Lebanon, your recent decision to redeploy forces has aroused many questions. Can you clarify the dimensions and objectives of this decision on the military and political levels and whether it is related to other considerations reported in the press, such as the reports which reiterated that this decision is linked to the personal relationship between you and President Ilyas Sarkis?

Answer: Actually, we can say that the decision is a cosmetic measure related to our military situation. We believed, on the one hand, that it is a possible measure and, on the other, that it constitutes a basic necessity and a minimum step that we should take in light of developments in the area, particularly recently.

We are aware that with the progress of the steps between As-Sadat and Israel, new realities might emerge and the measures which are planned against Syria or other countries in the area might surface. We can deduce this from the Israeli threats and statements.

We do not believe that this decision is the appropriate measures to reply to Israel in case it carries out an aggression because the real correct measure is the return of all these forces to their trenches in the Golan. However, we thought that it was a possible and cosmetic measure which allows us a margin of freedom of movement. Our decision lies within this framework. Such actions should not be viewed within very narrow frameworks, if we can call them frameworks.

Does the relationship with the Lebanese president have a positive link with this measure? Whatever the relationship between officials in Lebanon and Syria, it should not be a factor in such a decision. My relationship with President Sarkis is a good and unblemished one.

We could do no more than the limits of the decision we have taken. Although we consider to have a duty toward our bretheren in Lebanon, we should reconcile between carrying out this duty and our other duty in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Had we not felt the importance of our duty toward our brethren in Lebanon, we would not have borne all these sacrificies all this time.

I have told a Lebanese official that I cannot recall a single country in the world which has sacrificed for another country as much as Syria has sacrificed for Lebanon. I am not saying that this is an act of kindness. We do not make acts of kindness by supporting our people in Lebanon because by doing so, we are supporting ourselves. I am saying this only to show and confirm the truth. For 4 years, our soldiers have been stationed in northern Lebanon, southern Lebanon, in the mountains, in the streets, in the villages, in the cities and everywhere. All this has a price, as everybody knows.

Our sacrifices were big on the military, economic and political levels. In return for this, we never had in mind narrow Syrian interests, except within the context of Arab interests. All that we have wanted and wish for this fraternal country is for it to regain its health, unite its sons and enable its state and various institutions to carry out their tasks and duties in order to provide their sons with everything that other countries provide for their sons.

Despite the fact that 1 month has passed, we have not carried out the redeployment decision to date in order to give our brethren in Lebanon the appropriate opportunity to take the suitable measures on the basis that we are in Lebanon as a deterrent force. We wish they would exempt us from the role of policeman, which makes it incumbent upon the soldier to interfere in public life. We do not want this and do not believe that it is the central tasks of the deterrent forces, despite the fact that we were forced to exercise this role for 4 years.

It is in this way that we reconcile between pan-Arab necessities and national Lebanese necessities. We stay as a deterrent force and officials in Lebanon supply day-to-day internal security.

Question: Mr President, it is being reiterated that Syria wants something from Lebanon; namely, the conclusion of a security treaty between the two countries, without specifying the definition of this treaty. If this is true, how true is it?

Answer: I have read about this in the press but I have not said it and not a single official in Syria has said it to anybody. In other words, I have not asked for it and no other official in Syria has asked for it from anybody.

What does a treaty mean to us? Why should we want a treaty? Do we need such a treaty? Relations between two fraternal countries should be good and excellent. These relations should be regulated. This matter might be a need for any two neighborly countries, particularly when these two countries belong to the same nation. However, we have not raised this issue or asked for it from anybody. We do not need such a treaty. At any rate, I think that if there should be such a treaty, fraternal Lebanon is in more need of it than Syria because what Lebanon needs from Syria is much more than what Syria needs from Lebanon.

Therefore, I am surprised at the great deal of talk which has taken place in several places and on several occasions on this subject. We have not asked for a treaty and do not want it. We do not need it. However, if Lebanon has a need for it, we support Lebanon all the way and to whatever extent it wants. We have only one demand: the restoration of Lebanon's health.

Question: It is also said on this subject that the Syrian decision was taken suddenly, without the knowledge of any quarter in Lebanon, and aroused the reaction which has appeared in Lebanon from various sides. All this led to the question: What is the Lebanese president's authority over these forces in their capacity as deterrent forces mandated by the Arab League?

Answer: As far as the decision coming as a surprise, I say that the decision is ours. When the decision was taken, it was announced. We gave ample time so that its implementation would not come as a surprise. As proof of this, we took the decision 1 month ago and we have not implemented it to date. So where is the surprise? We made the decision and told them this is our decision. We held discussions and exchanged viewpoints on its implementation. We are still exchanging viewpoints and cooperating on its implementation.

Undoubtedly, we did not consult with anybody in the past on what is related to our defensive policy and we do not intend to do so now or later. We have our defensive policy and plan. We do not believe it is the right of our brethren in Lebanon to say come, let us join you. However, had they said this, we would have welcomed them. They should realize that such words entail other commitments on them. We welcome Lebanon's entry into an Arab defensive plan, whether bilateral--between us and Lebanon--or whether among others.

As I have just said, the decision was dependent upon developments in the area. I do not think anybody expects us to make a decision in this regard jointly with others.

Furthermore, the Lebanese president exercises his authority over these forces when they are in Lebanon. His authority does not extend to their withdrawal from Lebanon. They are Syrian forces. We did not lease or sell our forces to anybody. We deployed these forces to aid the legitimate authority in Lebanon. This authority can issue orders to these forces in Lebanon but it does not control their withdrawal from Lebanon to Syria, when the pan-Arab mission dictates the withdrawal of these forces. It is our full right and full duty to withdraw them. The Lebanese president does not have the right to prevent us from doing so.

We have never said otherwise in the past. There is no agreement which commits us to anything else. We went to Lebanon voluntarily. We placed our forces under the command of the legitimate authority in Lebanon voluntarily. We can withdraw these forces and we have the right to withdraw them whenever we wish. By doing so, I do not think we will be violating any promise, decision or agreement.

Question: Your Excellency Mr President, it has also been said that the matter might be related to diverting attention away from Afghanistan and returning it to the area.

Answer: Those who say this seem to be hard of hearing. Otherwise, they would have heard Israel's statements and allegations that Syria wants to attack Israel. This is preparation for an aggression Israel is scheming. This is what we should deduce because Israel knows that Syria, at least at this stage, is not scheming an attack on Israel. Furthermore, Israel has announced through its officials that it has placed its forces on alert. Despite this, some of them are hard of hearing and talk about the diversion of attention. We do not believe that the area should be placed on the brink of war for the sake of diverting attention away from Afghanistan to anywhere else.

Finally, we do not need to call attention to ourselves. We have enough world attention. The decision to redeploy the deterrent forces is not related to events in Afghanistan or to the conference on Afghanistan.

Question: Some circles say that there is a new U.S. plan to bypass Resolution No. 242 and secure the PLO's participation in negotiations that, it is assumed, will be held. Have you been approached on this subject? Do you have any information on it?

Answer: This subject was not raised with us and we do not know anything about it. However, there might be such attempts of which we are not aware. At any rate, any negotiations or actions that agree with or complement the Camp David accords should be termed treasonous.

Question: In several of his speeches, U.S. President Carter repeated a specific remark in which he said that not a single Arab leader has asked him or given him approval for the establishment of a Palestinian state and that all Arab leaders reject the establishment of this state.

Answer: I can say that it is impossible for Syria to be the intended object of these words.

Question: Recently, there have been contacts between you and the leaders of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. It has been said that a conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front will convene soon. At the same time, it has been said that there are efforts to convene an Arab summit conference. Is there any meeting ground between the two conferences? Can the two conferences be held separately?

Answer: As everybody knows, we hold conferences of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front from time to time. The summit conference of the Steadfastness Front which will be held soon, is not related to the Arab summit conference. Furthermore, we have not heard of any call for convening an Arab summit conference. It is known that the Arab summit conference convenes periodically every year. This year, it will convene in the fall in Jordan.

Question: Regarding the steadfastness summit conference, there are known relations between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the PLO. Can this gap between the two sides be surmounted to convene the conference?

Answer: I do not think that the problem is of such importance as to constitute an obstacle to the convocation of the conference. We are all brothers. We should be able to easily overcome all differences that surface between us. I do not mean only the parties to the Steadfastness Front. I mean that all Arabs should be able to overcome the differences that emerge among them, particularly when there are more important and serious things that require a unity of stand and action and further mobilization and cooperation.

In fact, I have exchanged viewpoints with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and President Chadli Bendjedid on the need to hold a meeting among all the parties of the Steadfastness Front. We also had a discussion on this subject between us and some of our brother officials in the PLO. We corresponded with President 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il on the need to convene a summit conference for the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

Question: Do you believe that this conference will be held this month?

Answer: Contacts are underway to fix the date. We are all agreed that the conference should convene soon.

Question: Will this conference convene in Damascus?

Answer: No, not in Damascus. But we have not yet set the venue.

Question: What about relations between Syria and Kuwait?

Answer: Relations between us and Kuwait are fraternal relations. Our cooperation is good. We are satisfied with the role which Kuwait is playing within the context of Arab action to bolster Arab solidarity. We feel that our brother officials in Kuwait understand world events well within the framework of Arab interests. I appreciate the role of brother Amir Shaykh Jabir in this context and regarding Arab issues.

DEFENSE MINISTER: CAMP DAVID PARTNERS 'EVOKE SEDITION'

JN082202 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Commenting on the anniversary of the 8 March revolution, Maj Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and defense minister, said: Our determination to confront challenges, our steadfastness in the face of the colonialist and Zionist plots and our confrontation of agents and their conspiracies have led the Camp David partners to try to evoke sedition and chaos inside Syria.

In an interview with the newspaper TISHRIN, which was published today, Maj Gen Mustafa Talas said: The crimes committed by agents and hired elements reflect a vicious rancor against our Arab country, which stands strong against those who want to drag our Arab people to the position of capitulation. Talas reaffirmed that those agents want us to submit, join traitor As-Sadat, forget forever the message of our noble martyrs and destroy images of honor drawn by the October War. But under the leadership of the struggling President Hafiz al-Asad, we will stand fast and confront all the challenges with all we possess of power and faith.

Pointing out the role of our armed forces in Lebanon, Talas said that the role not only aims at putting an end to bloodshed, but also at confronting the evil attempts aimed at distorting the Arab image of Lebanon. It also aims at preventing a big catastrophe.

Talas reaffirmed that our forces will continue to carry the banner of Palestine until the Arab people of Palestine restore all their rights and achieve their aims of liberation and victory.

ALGERIA

EL MOUDJAHID HAILS ALGERIAN-INDIAN COLLABORATION

LD061507 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 3 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[APS report: "Nonalined Movement: Algerian-Indian Proposals"]

[Text] New Delhi--Economic cooperation between India and Algeria is to develop considerably and has now gained new importance following Mr Ben Yahia's official visit, during which several cooperation agreements were signed between the two countries, including a major technological and scientific cooperation agreement which will make it possible to impart a new thrust to relations and trade between the countries in a broad range of fields.

This shared desire on India's and Algeria's part to give priority to their economic exchanges is particularly noteworthy since an identical approach was noted in New Delhi to the analysis of international issues, in view of the present worrying situation and the aggravation of world tension.

Following the important talks between Algerian and Indian representatives, the most striking aspect is the shared view of nonalinement at the present very delicate phase in international relations, at a time when the nonalined movement is facing all kinds of pressures designed to make it deviate from its principles.

Both countries, seriously worried about the reactivation of foreign military bases and the return to the policy of blocs and cold war, causing areas of tension and a threat to detente, decided that they must, together with the other nonalined countries--as Mr Ben Yahia stressed at the start of his visit to the Indian capital--continuously strengthen their action to preserve world peace.

In this connection the real seven-point plan of action prepared during the Algerian-Indian talks is drawing the full attention of political observers in New Delhi, where intensive diplomatic activity is also in progress and visits by several foreign ministers are taking place.

The Algerian-Indian proposals illustrate a new realistic and responsible approach to the nonalined movement's role and its great responsibility in view of the gravity of the present international problems.

It is in this connection that one must view the importance of the two countries' joint analysis, not only with regard to the situation in Asia, but also with regard to other acute problems in several areas of the world. This analysis in fact reflects the fundamental interests of the Third World and the nonalined movement. It proposes strengthening and consolidating the nonalined policy and attempts to create the political conditions for a solution not only to the Afghan problems but also to the international situation as a whole, as well as envisaging safeguarding the Third World countries' nonalined policy with respect to the major powers and the rejection of the policy of blocs and foreign interference.

On another plane it should be noted that the talks between India and Algeria on world economic problems, specifically on the worldwide North-South negotiations, the idea for which was introduced by Algeria during the Havana summit, produced fairly convergent viewpoints. This can only facilitate the work of the "Group of 77" at its imminent UN meeting in New York, since this dialog is experiencing a critical phase.

Thus one can understand why this problem was discussed specifically by Mr Ben Yahia and his counterpart, Mr Rao, so as to bring the two countries' viewpoints closer with regard to pursuing global negotiations between developing and developed countries. Furthermore, the coming New York meeting, which is considered the last chance for agreement, will be decisive inasmuch as it will have to decide on a real and fruitful form of cooperation or lead to an outright confrontation. This necessitates an intensification of economic exchanges and cooperation among Third World countries.

In this connection New Delhi is expressing satisfaction with the exemplary relations established between India and Algeria, which well express their shared desire to make them a model of mutual aid and of the kind of exchange which must be established among developing nonalined countries.

Thus India and Algeria are demonstrating the true meaning of real North-South cooperation.

MAURITANIA

PRIME MINISTER HAYDALA COMMENTS ON SAHARA SUMMIT

LD102200 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpts] Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, head of state and prime minister has emphasized that the political declaration and the program of cooperation of the summit conference of the states adjoining the great Sahara form strong foundations for cooperation among these states in the service of their common interests. The head of state praised the results of the fifth summit conference of the Saharan states. He said that they will help to attain the desired aims and aspirations.

After pointing out Mauritania's positive participation in the conference, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala explained that our country will host the next conference in 1982. He said we hope that the committees which emanated from the fifth summit conference would translate the Bamako conference recommendations and resolutions into a tangible reality.

The chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, head of state and premier added that his talks with the heads of state and prime ministers of the states which took part in the conference dealt with various aspects of bilateral cooperation and current Arab, African and international issues.

It is worth mentioning that Chairman Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala granted an interview in Bamako to an AFP correspondent about our stand on the present situation in Western Sahara. In this connection the chairman reaffirmed Mauritania's firm adherence to its neutrality toward the present dispute in the region. He added that Morocco and the POLISARIO Front must understand this and help us to adhere to our stand in the interest of the region and that of peace in the entire Arab Maghreb.

Replying to a question as to whether the POLISARIO Front is linking the question of the release of prisoners with our recognition of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] government, the head of state pointed out that the Algiers agreement does not provide for the recognition of SDAR.

Lt Col Haydala said that Mauritania, which left the war in the Sahara forever, will never agree to return to this war, and expressed the hope that Morocco would understand our position and endeavor to accept it in the interest of the two countries and of peace in the region. Mauritania would then be ready, as it had been in the past, to consolidate its relations with Morocco.

MOROCCO

MOROCCO, IVORY COAST RATIFY COOPERATION TREATY

LD061334 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 6 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Abidjan, Mar 6, (MAP)--Morocco and Ivory Coast ratified the friendship and co-operation treaty, which had been concluded between the two countries, in September 1973. [as received]

The ratification instruments of this treaty, concluded during the visit of Ivorian President Mr Houphouet Boigny to Rabat, have been exchanged Tuesday in Abidjan between Mr Taoufiq el Kabbaj, Moroccan ambassador to Abidjan, and Mr Simeon Ake, Ivorian foreign affairs minister.

In an exchange of allocations, Mr Simeon Ake said he was convinced that the implementation of the Moroccan-Ivorian treaty will contribute to the strengthening of friendship between the two countries and to the development of the bilateral relations in all fields.

He also added that the joint Moroccan-Ivorian ministerial commission will hold its first meeting this month.

For his part, the Moroccan ambassador expressed satisfaction at the signing of this treaty, which intervenes at a moment when Morocco is celebrating the 19th anniversary of King Hassan II's accession to the throne. He also paid homage to the action of President Boigny in favor of dialogue and concertation for the settlement of the conflict prevailing in the Northwest African region.

SUDAN

ETHIOPIAN, SUDANESE TRADE AGREEMENT REACHED

JN061046 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 6 March--The day before yesterday, a statement was issued in Addis Ababa at the end of the Sudanese trade delegation's 28 February-4 March visit to Ethiopia.

The statement says that in order to facilitate trade between the two states, a fruitful discussion was held between the Sudanese and Ethiopian sides, in which they agreed to expand bilateral trade relations. Within this framework, Sudan will buy coffee beans and other Ethiopian commodities.

SENEGALESE OFFICIAL ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR NUMAYRI

JN071508 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 7 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 7 March--Senegalese Secretary of State for the Prime Minister's Office Mohamed Abdoulaye arrived here today carrying a message for President Numayri from Senegalese President Leopold Sedar Senghor. The message deals with strengthening and developing bilateral relations.

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TUNISIA

NOUIRA UNDERGOES BRAIN OPERATION IN PARIS

LD101440 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Hedi Nouira, Tunisian prime minister, who suffered a cardiovascular attack 2 weeks ago, underwent an operation 48 hours ago in the neurosurgical unit of the Petie Salpetriere Hospital in Paris. The operation was successful and all intercerebral clots were removed. The Tunisian prime minister is expected to leave the hospital next week.

Steadily Improving

LD101441 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The health condition of Prime Minister Hedi Nouira is steadily improving. He is still receiving telegrams of sympathy and wishes of prompt recovery from national organizations, party bodies, municipalities and a number of cadres and citizens.

U.S. CONGRESS DEBATE ON SUPPORT FOR TUNISIA REPORTED

LD101554 Tunis TAP in English 1420 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, March 10 (TAP)--Observers did not lack to point out the firm and unequivocal support brought by the United States of America to Tunisia following the aggression against Qafsah. The U.S. unreserved support and action solidarity have been shown at all levels, and especially at the legislative and executive levels.

In this framework the House of Representatives adopted a resolution inviting the U.S. Government to take measures in order to "help Tunisia face this attack launched against its liberty and its security", pointing out the political stamp of the Tunisian regime and particularly "the spectacular progress" that Tunisia achieved under the leadership of President Bourguiba in the sector of economic growth and in that of the search for "an economic self-sufficiency based on a fair distribution of the growth's benefits at the profit of its people".

The debate which preceded the adoption of this resolution at the House of Representatives, reveals the esteem and consideration which the U.S. Congress feels for Tunisia.

Those who took the floor during this debate have indeed stressed "the serious character of foreign attempts destined at thwarting Tunisia's stability, the necessity to respect Tunisia's independence and the importance of Tunisia's stability for the whole Mediterranean area." They also pointed out the total failure of Qafsah's assaillants who vainly tried to make the population participate in this foolish operation.

In this respect, Mr Christopher Dodd (Democratic representative of Connecticut) stated: "I deem that the fact that Qafsah's citizens helped in pushing back the attack launched against their town is a homage paid to President Bourguiba's government which achieved spectacular progress in the field of economic growth and in that of the fair distribution of this growth's benefits".

As it was stressed by Mr Clement Zablocki, chairman of the foreign commission, who presented this resolution to the House, Mr Dodd's statement came as a corroboration of the U.S. Government's unity in its support to Tunisia.

Indeed, only a few days before this debate, the head of the U.S. Executive [branch], President Jimmy Carter, insisted when receiving Mr Habib Bourguiba Junior, President Bouguiba's special envoy, on recalling strongly and solemnly to the representatives of the press, his consideration for the action of development undergone by Tunisia and his deep preoccupation at any threat directed against our country. He said in particular:

"I insist on expressing my admiration to you as well as to your people for the results you obtained in spite of relatively limited natural resources with a view to preserving liberty in your country and to continuing your progress for achieving a united, strong and independent nation and for having achieved remarkable progress in the economic and social fields. I would also like to say here in the presence of the press that we follow with a deep preoccupation any threat directed against your people's or your country's independence and liberty".

If this stand is part of the cooperation and friendly relations which have always been existing between both countries since Tunisia's independence, it all the more reflects the great esteem of the U.S. leaders to President Bourguiba for his policy and the ideals of freedom and peace that he had always defended. It mainly shows the U.S. attachment to Tunisia's security and its preoccupation regarding any maneuvre of destabilization in the Mediterranean area.

STATE SECURITY COURT SITS TO HEAR QAFSAH CASE

LD101444 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The State Security Court sat at 1000 this morning to begin consideration of the case of those involved in the aggression against the city of Qafsah. The hearing was attended by 52 lawyers charged with defending the 52 persons involved in the case. Another six are on the run and the cases against six others were dropped following investigations.

The hearing took place in the presence of representatives of Tunisian and foreign information organs and a crowd of citizens. After the defendants and their respective lawyers were called by name, and the report on the results of the investigation and the indictment were read out, the State Security Court postponed its session to Friday next, at the request of the defense, for the lawyers to familiarize themselves with the dossiers of the case.

LE MONDE: POLITICAL UNITY NEEDED TO SAFEGUARD SECURITY

LD071425 Paris LE MONDE in French 7 Mar 80 p 6 LD

[Michel Deure dispatch: "Qafsah Guerrillas Will Appear Before State Security Court"]

[Excerpt] Tunis--President Bourguiba received Ahmed Mestiri, secretary general of the Tunisian Movement of Social Democrats, Wednesday for the second time in less than a month. This meeting, arranged by the head of state, seems to have taken place in a much more relaxed atmosphere than the first meeting 7 February. It is true that events have escalated in the last 4 weeks. The attack on the capital of the mining region and the crisis this produced in relations with Tripoli are no longer the only subjects of concern in political circles. This already worrying situation has been followed by the sudden illness of Prime Minister Hedi Nouira, who suffered a cerebral hemorrhage 26 February.

Mr Mestiri stated that the talks he had with the president of the republic related to "the difficult situation" in the country. According to him the situation "requires a complete and sincere assessment in all spheres and serious consideration to vital substantial changes corresponding to the people's aspirations and protecting Tunisia from the dangers threatening it from all sides."

"Therefore," he added, "we must rely mainly on ourselves to overcome the present crisis, to really guarantee the country's security and to maintain its independence and build its future." Does this mean that full-fledged dialog has been opened between the government and the most moderate "legalist" opposition group? In any case there is no doubt that in the present state of affairs there are signs that the tension is easing. However, by referring to "vital substantial changes" Mr Mestiri seemed to be anxious to stress that he has not abandoned the ideas and theories he has constantly expounded in the past 10 years. Immediately after the Qafsah attack he told us that "Tunisia's security and the survival of the state are essentially dependent on uniting Tunisians in a regime which guarantees constitutional rights, establishes a democracy suited to Tunisia and favors a socialism adapted to the situation."

The members of the Movement of Social Democrats think that in present circumstances, the "domestic front" must be strengthened by organizing solidarity among all Tunisians whatever their political allegiance. According to them, it is on the basis of this consensus that a general assessment could be made which would lead to the changes needed in the country's political life.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO FRONT'S BASHIR MUSTAFA CRITICIZES KING HASSAN

LD072256 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 7 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The assistant secretary general of the POLISARIO Front said in an interview today that in the secret clauses in the peace agreement signed by Mauritania and the Saharans in Algiers [word indistinct] last year, Mauritania agreed to return on 5 March of this year the territory under its occupation. Bashir Mustafa as-Sayyid urgently appeals to Mauritanian leader and asks them to respond positively by scrupulously respecting all the public and secret clauses of the peace agreement. The POLISARIO Front, for its part, states that it has respected this agreement in spirit and as far as the provisions go. And since the POLISARIO Front has respected it, no military operation was conducted in the zone occupied in Mauritania.

Morocco, the (assistant secretary general) observed, took advantage of this to deceive international opinion and, in particular, Moroccan opinion. According to the POLISARIO Front, King Hassan II's recent visit to Dakhla in fact had the purpose of strengthening this propaganda of deception. But, the assistant secretary general of the POLISARIO Front added, this deception is driving us to reply henceforth in the most striking manner in places we ourselves choose. The international organizations, and in particular the OAU, must be aware of the Moroccan deception. Only recognition of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic by the entire [word indistinct] will really answer the defiance of the OAU by Hassan II, [word indistinct] first step in Monrovia [words indistinct] represents unity, Bashir Mustafa said.

KNESSET APPROVES SHAMIR AS FOREIGN MINISTER

TA101950 [Editorial Report TA] At 1930 GMT on 10 March, Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew transmits a live broadcast from the Knesset as the vote is being counted on the approval of Yitzhaq Shamir as foreign minister. The vote is 55 in favor, 39 against, with 3 abstentions. Immediately afterward, Mr Shamir takes the oath and then takes his seat at the Cabinet table.

BURG: AUTONOMY NEGOTIATIONS DEADLINE AN 'ULTIMATUM'

TA101850 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 10 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Back now to Interior Minister Yosef Burg, head of the Israeli autonomy negotiating team. Earlier this afternoon, he briefed the autonomy working groups about his talks in The Hague with Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil and American special envoy Sol Linowitz. As he emerged from that meeting, he was asked by reporter Mark Lavi about President as-Sadat's statement that 26 May was a deadline for the autonomy talks.

[Begin Burg recording] I know that President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin signed a joint letter to the President of the United States declaring that Israel and Egypt will take the goal to finish their talks at that time, but from a goal to make a deadline, that only bears deadlocks. I don't see any use in making ultimatums. I can only declare that we are ready to do our utmost in order to bring to a conclusion, but we'll see how it works.

[Question] The talk of a deadline would be a problem, do you think?

[Answer] No, it creates an atmosphere, an atmosphere of an ultimatum. I personally don't like to work in this kind of an atmosphere, I like to work in an atmosphere of cooperation and friendship. [end recording] Burg added that he hoped to restablish contacts this week with Washington and Cairo about setting up two further working groups decided on at The Hague.

Tourism Agreement Signed

TA101627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Israel and Egypt have signed a tourism agreement. Our correspondent in Cairo reports that, according to the agreement, every Israeli tourist will be obliged to spend in Egypt at least 100 Egyptian pounds. Every Israeli travel agency that contacts an agency in Egypt will have to pay, in advance, at least 40 percent of the total cost of the deal. Tourists from Israel will be able to come to Egypt in private cars, but not in buses.

As far as visits to St Catherine's and Ra's Muhammad are concerned, the existing arrangement of entry without visas will be continued. Our correspondent says the signing of the agreement was made possible after a number of disputed issues were forwarded for resolution to the surface transportation committee. The talks on the agreement were proceeding quickly this morning because the transportation and tourism delegations are returning to Israel this evening.

Release of Security Prisoners

TA110916 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Mar 80 p 2 TA

[Text] Today Israel is releasing six security prisoners and will transfer them to the Egyptian authorities as a gesture agreed upon at the last meeting between Ministers 'Ezer Weizman and Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

The reference is to security prisoners who were originally sentenced for collecting funds and recruiting volunteers for membership in terrorist organizations. The prisoners who will be released today have served most of the time to which they were sentenced by military courts.

The six will be brought to Ne'ot Sinai around noon and from there they will be handed over to the Egyptian authorities. Three of them are from the Al-'Arish area and three others are inhabitants of Sinai, from the area still under Israeli control.

AMBASSADOR MURTADA MEETS INDUSTRIALISTS ASSOCIATION LEADER

TA101139 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Mar 80 p 3 TA

[Text] The manufacturers' association will not send an industrialists' delegation to Egypt as long as an Egyptian economic delegation does not arrive in Israel. Mr Avraham Shavit, the head of the manufacturers association, said this to Egypt's Ambassador Sa'd Murtada while hosting him in the Tel Aviv association's offices.

Mr Shavit, using firm language, informed the ambassador: We are not calm about the economic relations between the two countries. I visited Cairo last August. Hasan Kamil (the Egyptian president's official representative) invited an Israeli manufacturers' delegation to visit Egypt. On the other hand it was agreed that Egyptian industrialists would come to Israel. It was decided they would come in October, but the date was put off twice and they have not arrived in Israel to date. I do not feel Egypt is as open as us to developing economic relations with Israel. Mutuality is very important in trade ties.

Suprised by Mr Shavit's firm remarks, the Egyptian ambassador replied: You have to understand President as-Sadat faces difficulties and there is also the problem of the autonomy talks. Shavit answered: I do not understand the politics.

The meeting between the two, attended also by the association's director general, Mr Peleg Tamir, was not concluded. It was only decided to meet again.

It was also learned yesterday that the situation of aviation relations between the two countries is not clear since the identity of the Egyptian airline, the Nefertiti, is vague up till this very moment. It seems it is jointly owned by the Egyptian airline, Egyptair, and a private investor.

KUWAIT SERVES AS MIDDLEMAN FOR U.S.-PLO CONTACTS

TA101310 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Mar 80 TA

[Text] It has been reported in Kuwait that the United States is holding indirect contacts with the PLO on a new UN resolution which would serve as the framework for peace in the Middle East. Western sources report that Kuwait has been serving as middleman in these contacts, but does not like the job. According to this report, the Kuwaiti foreign minister has informed the United States that he would no longer serve as messenger-boy between it and the PLO. This report has not been confirmed by any other source.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL ASKS TO BE RELIEVED

TA111107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Mar 80 TA

[Text] This morning, Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Ciechanover asked Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to be relieved of his post for personal reasons as soon as possible. Our political correspondent reports that Ciechanover had submitted a similar request to Menahem Begin a short time after Moshe Dayan resigned from his post as foreign minister, but Begin had asked him to continue filling the post.

HA'ARETZ ON PROBLEMS WITHIN NRP, EARLY ELECTIONS

TA101658 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Mar 80 p 9 TA

[Amnon Barzilay commentary: "Has the Countdown Started?"]

[Excerpt] About 10 days ago, after a long silence, NRP Ben-Me'ir raised the idea of early elections again. When he first suggested this the reaction in his party was one of anger and indignation. There has been a change this time. Interior Minister Yosef Burg, in a meeting with his faction's activists, has also raised the idea of early Knesset elections. When such remarks are made by the most veteran Cabinet minister and the most experienced NRP politician, more weight should be placed on them, not only inside his party but outside it as well.

Burg's remarks to his Lamifne faction were only a warning, of course. It was clear to experts in the complicated NRP system that his remarks were directed at Messers Zvulun Hammer and Aharon Abu-Hatzera, rather than at the prime minister. During one of the power and succession struggles inside the NRP these men warned that they will not recognize him as "number one" in their party.

The warning was made a week after the meeting of the NRP's Internal Autonomy Committee, where calls were made to remove Dr Burg from the chairmanship of the government [autonomy] committee. During that verbal struggle the heads of the Lamifne faction warned that they will cause the government to fall if Burg's status continues to be undermined. There was a simple calculation behind this threat. Lamifne consists of three Knesset members--Dr Burg, Avraham Melamed and Rubin Ben-Tziyon. Melamed, who has dovish political views, will be happy to contribute his share to overthrowing the Likud. While Rubin, if he is promised a second term in the Knesset, will not object to an order from Refa'el Ben-Natan, "the strong man" in Burg's faction, to vote against the government. Eli'ezer Avtabi, a representative of the religious Moshavs who also participated in the farmers' demonstration [against the government's agricultural policy, held in front of the Knesset a few days ago], could also be counted in this effort.

An additional NRP Knesset member is a "candidate" for cooperating in such an effort, not to mention Ben-Me'ir himself, who will have to make good on his words. Six NRP members (half the party) expressing no confidence in the government can topple it (the government is supported by 65 Knesset members).

Burg's warning that he will act to advance the elections should not be surprising. The surprising element is Burg's successful timing. Analyzing Burg's move we learn a little about his political talents and understand his extraordinary instinct for survival. Burg's speech to his faction's activists demonstrates a rare use of the latest events for personal interests without overlooking the general interest at the general interest at the very same time. [paragraph continues]

Burg belongs to the NRP faction that has more of a "historic link" to the Labor Party than the other factions. Some 80 religious Moshavs and Kibbutzim belong to Hapo'el Hamizrahi headed by Refa'el Ben-Natan, Burg's confidant and supporter. The government's economic policy hit especially those NRP members who are closely connected to Burg's faction. Burg expressed his discontent with the economic situation the very week that Hurvitz was subjected to criticism. Burg did not mention the finance minister but let it be understood that the 100 days of grace granted to Hurvitz had passed. However, Burg's personal considerations were added to the feeling of disappointment with Hurvitz and to the fear he will not be able to reconstruct the ruins of the Israeli economy.

At 71, Burg believes he has not yet exhausted all his capabilities. He intends to continue to lead his faction, the largest of the NRP factions, and to be number one on the NRP's Knesset list. The threats to his status did not leave him indifferent. In discussions of the efforts to oust him he dismisses the subject, but the idea for early elections is a trick intended to foil the initiative of his party's opponents. During the year and a half [before the Knesset elections] schemes may be dreamed up and methods invented to discredit him even in his own faction, not to mention the fact that in November 1981 Burg will be almost 73. If elections are advanced, he will still be at the height of his power without a way having yet been found to remove him.

The removal of the last obstacle to Shamir's appointment as foreign minister has been added to these considerations. This means that the 4 months during which Burg was the actual foreign minister are over. The period during which he ran the autonomy committee on his own is over.

Moshe Dayan boycotted the committee and refused to head it or be one of its members. It can be assumed that Menahem Begin will not allow the beheading of Burg as chairman of the autonomy committee; although it is possible that Burg was not ready to bet on this, and the threat of early elections was also a hint to Begin not to take action in this direction. However, even if Burg remains chairman of the autonomy committee the new foreign minister will surely limit some of Burg's powers. It is hard to believe that Shamir will let Burg travel alone to meetings with his Egyptian colleagues and U.S. mediator Sol Linowitz. Shamir's upcoming appointment brings to an end Burg's bright era as actual foreign minister.

Another question pertains to former Finance Minister Ehrlich's criticism of Minister Hurvitz' policy. Suspicions have been raised in the NRP and the Likud that the Liberals will make every effort to ruin Hurvitz' image and mar his policy. The rejection of Hurvitz' proposal to open people's safes (Ehrlich's threat) was called by NRP personages "the third night of the ducks" [term used by Israeli media to describe emergency cabinet session called to discuss economic issues in the spring of 1979, which failed to make a any decision]. The government has gone back to its former malpractice, to a situation where every Cabinet member looks to himself and his property.

The Liberals do not trouble the religious so much. The assessment that the government's power lies in the weakness of its components is true today as well. It is doubtful that the Liberals will score any political gains by the Cabinet's downfall. However, if they make things very difficult for Hurvitz he may resign. With proper timing, Hurvitz, by resigning, may restore the sympathy he has lost as a minister, but his resignation may precipitate the Likud's fall.

The religious wanted Hurvitz to succeed in strengthening the government and in improving the Likud's chances in the elections, because if the forecasts of the public opinion polls (according to which the alinement may gain an absolute majority) come true, this will not only mean that the Likud will return to opposition but that the religious will lose their status as an element that could tip the balance.

The NRP is faced with a dilemma: Should it, on the one hand, maintain its alliance with the Likud and grant Hurvitz another period of grace with the hope that the Likud will strengthen its status with the public and that such a recovery will insure the NRP its balance-of-power position in the future as well, or, alternatively, should it aid in toppling the government, thus avoiding appearing in public as a partner to failure and perhaps also increasing its electoral power at the expense of the Likud.

DAVAR: HUSAYN UNLIKELY TO JOIN PEACE PROCESS IN NEAR FUTURE

TA291407 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Feb 80 p 14 TA

[Yehoshu'a Tadmor commentary: "Husayn Is No Partner"]

[Text] Senior Egyptian sources reported this week that President as-Sadat had again appealed to King Husayn in an effort to persuade him to join the autonomy talks.

Shim'on Peres also vehemently reiterated his position which is the Labor Party's option in the wake of things he heard from James Callaghan after the latter met King Husayn in London. Peres analyzed Jordan's national interest in preventing the establishment of a Palestinian-PLO state, which would threaten the very existence of the kingdom. He also noted that the Allon plan was favored by large sections of the Labor Party and that it could serve as a basis for Israeli-Jordanian negotiations. If only that were true: Any peace agreement with Jordan, under the most difficult terms, would be better than a PLO state.

Still, the king's intentions and sincerity should be doubted. Husayn will certainly be ready to accept an Israeli proposal for the return of the entire West Bank and East Jerusalem; he will not make do with less than that. With such a proposal on hand he will be able to ask for Saudi, Iraqi and even PLO support. However, Husayn knows Israel's minimum conditions. Also, he cannot and does not intend to ask for even one meter less than the "moderates" in the PLO leadership, who are ready to make do with a "mini-state" in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as a transition stage. Thus, one should not accept Husayn's signalling at face value.

Over the years, Husayn has revealed himself as a sly and shrewd leader who knows his way in the inter-Arab arena. More than once he found himself in severe isolation, which posed a threat to his realm both in the internal and external spheres--and he has learned the lesson. Husayn conducted numerous meetings with Israeli leaders--10 years before As-Sadat--but even then he guarded his rear: He received the approval of 'Abd an-Nasir and the Saudi monarchy in advance. This goes further to attest to his shrewdness and cautiousness.

In the meantime, far-reaching changes have taken place in Husayn's status and the inter-Arab arena. Jordan is no longer isolated. It is a prosperous country, an honorable member of the Baghdad countries [as published, presumably conference] front supported by both Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Damascus, although angry at Amman, handles it carefully. [paragraph continues]

Jordan receives millions of dollars in aid from Riyadh, Baghdad and the oil Emirates and coordinates its moves with them. Husayn is closely cooperating even with the PLO in the sphere of economic assistance to the territories. He has recently made up with Yasir 'Arafat and that gives him legitimacy, both among the Palestinians in Jordan and in the inter-Arab arena.

Cooperation is restrained. However, it is based on common interests stemming from the situation created in the wake of the struggle against Israel. It is inconceivable that Husayn would give up these achievements and again expose himself to hatred from the PLO and the Palestinians in his kingdom.

Then, what are his motivations? Husayn's primary goal is to undermine the autonomy plan which he regards as a very real threat to the future of Jordan. Sooner or later this plan will beget a Palestinian state. If autonomy fails, creeping annexation will increase in the next few years. Husayn and 'Arafat share a common interest on this issue. If Husayn contributes to undermining the peace accords and to continuing As-Sadat's isolation in the framework of this systematical battle against the autonomy--he will even be blessed for that. Therefore, it should be assumed that As-Sadat's latest means of persuasion will fall on deaf ears in Amman.

Moreover, it should be recalled that 2 years ago Husayn was among those who called for the convening of the Baghdad conference and for increasing sanctions against Egypt. Those people formulating the decision of the Arab summit knew that they would not be able to deter As-Sadat from signing the peace treaty. Their main intention was to cast a veto on Husayn so that he does not follow in Cairo's footsteps.

It is highly unlikely that Husayn will dare to break this all-Arab veto and thus give up the wealthy stream flowing from the oil countries, or risk a return to isolation and abysmal hostility on the part of all the radical states and the Palestinians. What did Husayn actually tell Callaghan? Did he tell him that any future negotiations will have to be conducted under different terms and not in the framework of the Camp David accords? That is the same thing Damascus and Baghdad are saying: comprehensive negotiations from a position of power--either in the framework of the Geneva conference or any other framework--with PLO participation. That, in fact, was the intention of the Baghdad summit decisions.

It is important to examine closely the situation in the field. Only a few weeks ago it seemed as if Husayn was ready to return to the arena or, at least, to examine the situation and signal Israel. Several Jordanian Government officials in the West Bank were suddenly instructed to resume the authority to issue passports. However, these phenomena disappeared at once in the wake of hostile PLO reactions. Moreover, Husayn altogether stopped his struggle to gain the Arab man-in-the-street and the positions of leaders in the territories. He continues to pay Jordanian civil servants and other small groups boycotting the Israel administration. However, all this constitutes a matter of routine and preventive cure. His last loyalists returned from Amman disappointed. In the last few months, they were also forced to realign themselves along the PLO line. In secret talks, Husayn does not encourage his confidants in the West Bank to hope for better days either. Mayors and other PLO leaders have recently rushed to fill the vacuum left by Husayn.

Thus, it can be concluded that Husayn does not intend to join the negotiations either in the short- or the medium-term. Theoretically, there could be differences of opinion regarding the long-term. Apparently, Husayn, is convinced that Israel will, for the time being, prevent any attempt to establish a PLO state. However, he does not know how things will develop either, especially because the Israeli Government is not ready to cope with the real challenge of our lives; if not a Palestinian state, nor negotiations with Husayn then, at least, a supreme effort to promote autonomy which would fill the vacuum likely to undermine the peace accords.

NEW PAPER AL-MITHAQ TO APPEAR IN EAST JERUSALEM

TA110919 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Mar 80 p 2 TA

[By Dani Rubinstein]

[Text] Preparations have been completed for the publication of another paper in East Jerusalem. The paper's name is AL-MITHAQ (THE CHARTER) [ha'amana] and its trial publication is expected this week.

Permission to publish the paper was given to members of the Al-Khatib family from East Jerusalem. The family's head, 'Ali al-Khatib, was at one time the editor of the paper ASH-SHA'B and was expelled from Israel by the military government following a series of sharp articles he published. He is known in the West Bank by the nickname "Abu (Jidan)", with which he signed his articles in the "Good Morning" column, which is very popular in the Arab press.

After his expulsion, he spent some time in Libya and he is now in Lebanon. His son, Dr (Sufiyan) al-Khatib, has the license to publish the paper and it has been decided that (Kadal Samarah), the former economic editor of the paper AL-FAJR, who published several studies of the West Bank economy, will be the paper's editor.

It was said in East Jerusalem yesterday that the name chosen for the paper, "THE CHARTER," hints at the line it will take ("the Palestinian charter").

BRIEFS

FEWER SOVIET EMIGRES--During January, about 2,800 Jews left the Soviet Union. Only 1,060 of these arrived in Israel, meaning a 60 percent dropout rate. This is a record slowdown in the number of those leaving the Soviet Union. [Text] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Feb 80 p 1 TA]

PHOSPHATES PLANT ESTABLISHED--The cornerstone for a new phosphates plant--the third in the Dead Sea works--was laid today with the prime minister, his deputy and the industry, tourism and commerce minister attending. The construction of the plant will cost $160 million. The plant, named for the late chief of staff, Lt Gen Mordekhay Maqlef, will increase the Dead Sea Work's export capacity by 75 percent in 5 years, by producing 900,000 tons more of phosphates a year, bringing the production of the plants to more than 2 million tons. The technology to be applied in the plant has been developed by the Dead Sea Works' research laboratories and is based on the process of cool crystallization, which does not use steam energy and thus substantially decreases the cost of producing phosphates. The company will save approximately $4 million a year through applying this process. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Mar 80 TA]

AFGHANISTAN

AFP: 2 AMERICANS ARRESTED IN KABUL FOLLOWING 22 FEB INCIDENTS

BK101317 Hong Kong AFP in English 1305 GMT 10 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 10 March (AFP)--Afghan soldiers arrested two American nationals, including the alleged Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent Robert Lee, in the days following the violent anti-Russian demonstrations of Feb. 22, an American businessman who arrived here this afternoon from Kabul said.

The businessman, who had stayed in Kabul for more than three weeks, said the second American, a carpet dealer, was detained while taking photographs in the bazaar area of the capital. The businessman would not identify the carpet dealer with whom he had spoken a day prior to his detention. However, he added that the American Embassy in Kabul had confirmed his arrest and that it had been trying to obtain his release without success.

The businessman, who did not want to disclose his name, said Kabul was quiet but the "atmosphere is such it can explode any time." He added that he had heard more and more Russians were arriving in Afghanistan and the people, especially in the provinces, "hated them."

"I feel something is going to happen soon, I can't say when, maybe March 15 or 20", he said. The businessman, who took his flight from Qandahar, in the south, because the Afghan airlines flight could not land in Kabul due to bad weather, said both Qandahar and Mazar-e Sharif, near The Russian border in the north, were "bristling with Soviet troops and planes."

In Mazar-e Sharif, he said the people were staying indoors and Russian troops "could be seen everywhere day and night."

188 PERSONS INVOLVED IN 22-23 FEB EVENTS RELEASED

GF101740 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Mar 80 GF

[Excerpt] In accordance with a communique issued by the security forces on 1 March, 185 persons who were deceived by the enemies of the people during the events of 22 and 23 February, and were detained have been released.

A number of domestic and foreign correspondents and photographers were present when they were released.

KABUL DENIES REPORTS ON BORDER SECURITY TALKS WITH PAKISTAN

LD101936 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

[Text] A UP correspondent in Delhi has recently spread a seditious report of lies claiming that Babrak Karmal, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] has agreed to the convening of an international conference to decide on the formation of a police force to guard the Afghanistan-Pakistan border and regarding this as a step in the direction of the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Some other imperialist and reactionary news sources have also (?repeated) this news. A DRA Foreign Ministry spokesman has completely denied these groundless, lying and deceitful allusions of the agents of imperialism and reaction about such an imaginary conference.

The spokesman added: As has already been explicitly and decisively announced, it is again declared that the DRA has not and shall not allow any foreign country or any imperialist and reactionary circles to spread rumors deceitfully and seditiously about issues relating to Afghanistan without the will of the free and heroic people of Afghanistan and without the decision of the DRA Government. It is for the people and the government leaders of Afghanistan to make decisions on issues pertaining to the protection of national interests, achievements of the revolution and the country's security.

The people of Afghanistan, under the leadership of their legal, national and democratic government, determine their own destiny and will not allow any other power the right to settle issues relating to Afghanistan and its government leadership. The revolutionary, free and independent Afghanistan is a peace-seeking, nonalined country loyal to the UN Charter and shall remain so. Afghanistan, on a broad international front, is an active part of the force of peace, detente, freedom, independence and progress, and shall remain at the fortress of struggle against colonialism, imperialism, Zionism, racism and apartheid and warlike powers led by the blood-thirsty U.S. imperialism. Chinese chauvenism and black regional and world reaction.

The presence of the limited Soviet military contingents in Afghanistan is in accordance with the request of the DRA Government which corresponds with the free will of the heroic people of Afghanistan and the treaty of friendship, good-neighborliness and cooperation between the two countries and in agreement with Article 51 of the UN Charter. As has been said many times, the limited military contingents of the friend and fraternal USSR will remain in the free and independent Afghanistan until the time when all the conspiracies and designs of the regional reaction, imperialists and its allies against the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of our country, Afghanistan, are uprooted and eradicated.

The DRA regards as open interference in its internal affairs any form of behind-the-scene gatherings of the enemies of our people and revolution, the imperialist, Zionist, reactionary circles, their one-sided resolutions and their (?threatening) statements and it rejects, condemns and denounces them.

SOVIET, INSURGENT ACTIVITIES IN KABUL, COUNTRYSIDE

Military Convoys, Konarha Mojahedin

BK101630 Hong Kong AFP in English 1607 GMT 10 Mar 80 BK

[By Jean-Francois le Mounier]

[Text] Islamabad, 10 March (AFP)--Lengthy convoys of Soviet Army trucks with munitions and military materiel are a daily sight on the highway running south from the Soviet frontier to Kabul, the Afghan capital, eye-witnesses arriving from the area told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE here today.

Two travellers who went to the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e Sharif three days ago said they had been forced to wait for more than four hours while one of the heavily-guarded truck processions passed them on the highway.

Soviet military movements along this vital lifeline to the north has priority over all civilian traffic, and travelling it by bus is an exceedingly slow business, they said. The delays are increased by constant halts when civilians and their vehicles must undergo security checks for hidden arms.

In the capital itself military security has been somewhat more discreet, both travellers reported. In the streets, civilian communist party militiamen are less evident, though Soviet tanks continue to mount guard at the main intersections.

Kabul, in fact, has more or less the aspect it had before last month's anti-Soviet rioting. It is seldom that the regime's head, Babrak Karmal, is seen on television these days, and political life seems to have entered a kind of hibernation. Night arrests after the [word indistinct] continued to be common, the two travellers added, and though prices have soared, there seems to be no difficulty in supplying Kabul with basic food commodities.

According to Afghan insurgent sources here, mojahedin forces in the eastern Konarha area are understood to have regained the upper hand over Soviet troops in the Konar valley. The sources said that an insurgent attack in the Aswar area took a high death toll among the Soviet forces. The insurgents, meanwhile, were said to be systematically stripping the Soviet dead of their bulletproof vests.

A Soviet attack in the southeastern Zadran area was successfully repelled, the sources said, while in the Garda vicinity, in eastern Paktia Province, the pilot of a Soviet MI-24 assault helicopter lost control of the aircraft and crashed it.

Gas, Nuclear Weapons Deployment

LD111041 Brussels LE SOIR in French 7 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: Indian Efforts To End Bitter War in Afghanistan"]

[Excerpts] According to an Islamic spokesman, the Afghan cities of Herat (in the west), Qandahar (in the south) and Lashkar Gah (southwest) have staged general strikes.

Afghan rebels have killed the governor of Ghurian [as received] Province (northwest), where several dozen soldiers have rallied to the rebellion.

The international human rights federation has reported "massacres" by the Soviets in urban areas of Konarha Province near Jalalabad in the southeast, and the inhabitants' flight. On Wednesday the federation published a telegram from Peshawar, Pakistan from Michael Barry, its observer in Afghanistan, dated 4 March: "The Soviets have invaded the urban areas of Konarha on the Pakistani border. Some 130,000 inhabitants have been forced to flee. Women and children have been massacred. Gas has been used. There is categorical confirmation. Must appeal to Kurt Waldheim."

Finally, according to the French newspaper LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS (independent), "The Soviets have deployed tactical nuclear missiles in Afghanistan around Kabul, Qandahar and Bagram." The newspaper cites "very reliable Western military sources." The newspaper, which front-pages under an "exclusive" tag, writes: "The Soviet expeditionary corps stationed in Afghanistan has several self-propelled nuclear missile launchers." According to the newspapers, they could be so-called "battlefield" Frog and Soud missiles.

"These missiles have a short range not exceeding 150 km." LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS writes, "and this makes them formidable weapons likely to be decisive in a pitched battle. By deploying its missiles on Afghan territory the Soviet Union is marking out its ramparts. It is delimiting what it regards as its zone of security. Everybody has now been warned..., and the nuclear weapons are there to deter anybody who might think they can oppose Moscow's control of this country."

Refugee Situation, Rebel Activity

BK091348 Hong Kong AFP in English 1228 GMT 9 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 9 March (AFP)--The number of Afghans who have fled to Pakistan has soared to 579,923, according to official Pakistani sources quoted today by PPI news agency. Just over 482,000 Afghan refugees are in northwest Pakistan and another 96,000 in Baluchestan, the report said. The figures applied only to Afghans who registerd as refugees with the local authorities. One week ago the total was officially put at 513,000, some 66,000 less than the latest statistics.

Foreigners arriving here from the Afghan capital meanwhile reported that resistance to the new Soviet-installed regime was continuing in Kabul and along the border.

On Thursday rebels brought down a bridge on a river near Sarobi, 100 kms (60 miles) east of the capital, blocking all traffic for 48 hours to and from Jalalabad, sources said. A makeshift bridge guarded by four armoured vehicles was set up by Soviet troops but traffic was severely disrupted.

Travellers said fighting continued at night in Jalalabad, the country's fourth city, which is capital of east Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province. The city was calm by day although armored cars were stationed at strategic points, they said. Kabul itself was also reported [word indistinct], although tension was still apparent in the wake of the anti-Soviet clashes of February 22 and 23.

Diplomatic sources here said the Afghan Government had not strengthened security around Western embassies, despite requests from some Western countries which feared "demonstrations by government partisans." Reports from Kabul that such demonstrations were staged on Friday have now largely been discounted.

KABUL COMMENTS ON UNITY AMONG PARTY, GOVERNMENT, PEOPLE

LD102316 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

[Text] After the success of the new stage of the Sawr Revolution, in accordance with the rules of this stage of the revolution and the announced revolutionary [word indistinct] by Babrak Karmal, the general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] Babrak Karmal and other party and government leaders continually hold meetings with national and democratic forces, activists of the party and the military, civil and state cadres, and representatives of various nationalities, religions and other social classes.

They discuss the establishment of a broad fatherland national front, the defense of freedom, independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, the democratic freedoms of the individual, and in particular the safeguarding of security and the preservation of peaceful conditions for peaceful work. In these meetings the participants assure the party and government leaders of their full support. Every day thousands of letters, telegrams and messages containing proposals and suggestions of the compatriots from inside and outside the country are received by Babrak Karmal and other party and government leaders. The people, through their letters, telegrams and messages, as well as expressing their full support for the party and government, present useful and constructive proposals and suggestions. These contacts between the party and government and the people of the country are evidence of the unity, love and trust of all the people of the country and (?their readiness) to defend the honor and independence of the country. Based on the policy of the new stage of the Sawr Revolution, the need to announce these contacts and meetings through the mass media has not been felt.

A grand meeting was held yesterday in the Delgosha building, at which Babrak Karmal, members of the Politburo and Central Committee members, commanders, military and party cadres, political representatives of the different units of the heroic and freedom-giving armed forces and representatives of the security and police forces throughout Afghanistan were present. During the meeting, Babrak Karmal, the supreme commander of the liberating armed force of the country, through his valuable and historic speech, presented a detailed report regarding the internal and international situations and explained the revolutionary theses of the party and government politics, the vital duties of the second stage of the Sawr Revolution and the process of the evolution of the unity and solidarity of the liberating and heroic army of the country with the people and the party. In the revolutionary and comprehensive report of Babrak Karmal, special emphasis was laid on the preservation of security, the provision of peaceful conditions for work, and the question of the defense of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the country. Babrak Karmal, while placing emphasis on the discipline of the armed forces, said that the unbreakable solidarity of the party, government, army and the people of the country and the full and heroic determination of the armed forces and the country's security forces to safeguard territorial integrity, national independence and the preservation of security, is the hopeful factor which take us, free from anxiety, to final success. Later many political leaders and commanders of various units of the country's liberating armed forces promised Babrak Karmal and other party and government leaders to defend the honor of the country, preserve security and relentlessly crush the enemies of the homeland and revolution. They emphasized that the presence of the limited armed units of the USSR that have been invited by the legal government of Afghanistan for the defense of the independence and national sovereignty against the imperialist aggression is completely in accord with the friendship, cooperation and good neighbourhood treaty between the two countries signed in December, 1978 and with Article 51 of the UN Charter and is parallel to all the regulations and accepted international norms of international relations. They promised to defend the independence, national sovereignty honor, territorial integrity and the freedom of their beloved homeland until death, to struggle with courage to preserve stability and security, and to crush and eliminate the shameless stooges of imperialism.

BANGLADESH

GOVERNMENT SEEKS END TO 'UNAUTHORIZED' ARMS, AMMUNITION

BK090142 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 8 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The government is launching a countrywide special drive from the 20th of this month to recover unauthorized arms and ammunition, roundup miscreants and award deterrent punishment to them in due process of law.

A pressnote issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs in Dacca today said although a huge quantity of unauthorized arms and ammunition have been recovered in the recent past,the government believes that there still exists a large quantity of such arms which are being used by miscreants for committing different crimes. These post a real threat to law and order in the country and endanger public peace and tranquility.

It said the government will, however, allow a grace period of 8 days from Wednesday, the 12th of this month, for voluntary surrender of arms and ammunition. During this period no action will be taken against anyone depositing them but also [as heard] be given cash awards for the arms at prescribed rates.

The pressnote said arrangements have been made at the branches of all the nationalized banks up to thana [police station] level and offices of the deputy commissioners and SDO's [Subdivisional Officers] to receive the arms and make payments to the depositers. Unauthorized explosives and ammunition may, however, be deposited at the local police stations only.

The pressnote added that officers and others involved in recovering the arms, ammunition and explosives, after the expiry of grace period will also be awarded.

The government appeals to all patriotic and law abiding citizens of the country to extend their wholehearted cooperation to make the drive a success.

Home Minister Explanation

BK100456 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 10 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Home Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman has assured that no action whatsoever will be taken against those who will voluntarily surrender unauthorized arms during the grace period before the commencement of the special drive for the recovery of unauthorized arms.

Explaining the objective of the drive at a news conference in Dacca yesterday evening, the home minister said the drive, designed to be conducted by the police and other civil law enforcing agencies has been divided into two phases. He said in the first phase, beginning on Wednesday next [12 March]; general amnesty will be given to all those who will be voluntarily surrendering unauthorized arms to their respective places of deposit during the 8 days of grace period. In the second phase of the drive, beginning on the 20th of this month, intensive operations will be conducted for recovery of all unauthorized arms and ammunition.

The home minister said those who carry unauthorized arms are the enemies of the country and categorically declared that [word indistinct] will not discriminate in taking up (?measures) against the violators of the arms act. He said anybody,whoever he be, will be brought to book.

VISITING PRC OFFICIAL MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HAQ

BK071630 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Visiting Chinese Vice Minister for Communications (Tseng Sheng) had a meeting with Foreign Minister Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq in Dacca today. They discussed regional and international issues besides bilateral matters.

Professor Haq expressed satisfaction over the rapidly growing exchanges at various levels between the two countries which reflects the bond of friendship between China and Bangladesh.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR JERUSALEM MEETING IN MOROCCO

BK081555 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Foreign Minister Professor Mohammad Shamsul Haq left Dacca today for Morocco to attend the ministerial level Jerusalem committee meeting at Morocco. Talking to newsmen at the airport before departure, the foreign minister said the Middle East problems acquired a new dimension and urgency in view of the recent happenings in Afghanistan.

Prof Haq termed the forthcoming meeting of the 14-member Jerusalem committee as of crucial significance. The main task of the meeting, which begins on Tuesday [11 March], is to draft strategy for achieving the objective for which the committee was set up.

DACCA PAPER ATTACKS GOVERNMENT FOREIGN POLICY

BK081650 Dacca SANGBAD in Bengali 2 Mar 80 p 4 BK

[Editorial: On Which Way is the Foreign Policy"]

[Excerpts] During the (?3-day) prolonged debate on foreign policy in the parliament many issues including Afghanistan were raised.

In whatever way Khan Abdur Sabur Khan, who moved the adjournment motion in the parliament on Afghanistan, tried to raise the "save Islam" slogan, he failed to mislead anyone. Earlier, Sabur Khan is reported to have said that the whole world is now looking at the White House for leadership. This has exposed his true character and intentions. Recently addressing a public meeting, General Osmani [president of the Bangladesh Jatiya Janata Party] said that when the Zionists occupied Jerusalem and desecrated the Baitful Mukaddas, Sabur Khan who was then a federal minister of Pakistan, did not utter a single world. In not doing so he himself kept the question open: Which bosses does Sabur Khan, who did not open his mouth during the desecration of the Muslim holy place, want to satisfy today by moving an adjournment motion as a great sympathizer of Islam?

The Bangladesh Government always loudly proclaims its solidarity with the Muslim world. Many things are said in protest against Israel's grabbing of Arab territories in the Middle East and in support of the liberation movement of Palestine. But in this case also the difference between its words and deeds is very naked and painful. The government uttered not a word against the Camp David agreement which was a treacherous blow to the efforts to the recovery of lost Arab territories and to the liberation movement of the Palestinian people for a separate independent state. On the contrary, by developing close relations with As-Sadat, who was a signatory to the shameful capitulating agreement of handing over the holy city of Jerusalem and Baitful Mukaddas to the Zionists, the Bangladesh rulers have lowered the prestige of the country in the eyes of the Muslim world.

Didn't Foreign Minister Shamsul Haq accord 'red carpet' treatment to the special representative of the Egyptian president in Dacca when many Muslim countries refused to welcome him at the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Morocco? Allegations are also made against the present government that it is not extending necessary cooperation to the PLO which is the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people. Can the government deny the report that it is not allowing the PLO to open an information center in Chittagong? Can it also deny the fact that in the name of love for Islam the Ziaur government is hobnobbing more with the extremely reactionary monarchic states rather than progressive Arab countries?

Its loyalty toward the ousted shah of Iran and his bosses was so great that when on the hostage issue the United States declared an economic blockade of Iran and even threatened military intervention, the Islam loving Bangladesh Government did not come forward in support of Iran. The foreign policy of the present government is glittering proof of the fact that by completely depending on the favor of the enemy of Islam and the boss of Israel the purpose of Islam cannot be served.

Many doubts have also cropped up in the minds of the people after seeing the Bangladesh Government's policy of the question of Afghanistan. No one can morally support the presence of foreign troops in an independent country. At the same time no one can deny the people of a nation the right to freely choose their own social system. Could anyone deny the fact that since the 1978 April revolution subversive activities were carried out against Afghanistan? It is not known whether the Bangladesh Government ever investigated the truth behind the claim made by the Afghan Government that it sought Soviet aid to contain foreign threats and subversive activities against Afghanistan. The Bangladesh Government is also not paying any heed to the Soviet assurances that its troops will be withdrawn as soon as the U.S.-China-Pakistan threats against Afghanistan are removed. On the contrary, the Bangladesh Government is significantly silent and indifferent toward the danger of the expansion of cold war on the subcontinent in the name of Sino-American aid to Pakistan and of the preparations made to convert the region into a battlefield of the super-powers.

Moreover, the Bangladesh Government, which claimed to be nonalined, has so far failed to openly or categorically reject the Carter administration's proposal of forming a new military pact in the region.

All these things have aroused the concern of the intelligentsia in Bangladesh. No one wants Bangladesh to be involved in the U.S. military plan under the bogey of the Soviet Union. What we need on the Afghan issue is a defusion of tension and not the expansion of the arms race or war hysteria.

On the question of Vietnam, Kampuchea and other issues the weakness and imbalance in the Bangladesh foreign policy were clearly manifested from its excessive tilt toward a particular group. While our Foreign Ministry is quite loud in criticizing Vietnam's presence in Kampuchea, it remained mysteriously silent in relation to China's aggression against Vietnam. By casting its vote in favor of the proposal of keeping the Phnom Penh seat vacant at the nonalined summit and supporting the UN General Assembly resolution on the recognition of the exiled Pol Pot regime, it did not manifest its faith in justice and neutrality.

We believe that the Bangladesh foreign policy should be framed in the light of our national interest and the policy of nonalinement. We are a poor developing nation. In the interest of our social and economic progress we should try to achieve in the international sphere the lessening of tension, the reduction of the arms race and the creation of conditions conducive to peaceful coexistence with all nations irrespective of their social systems.

As it is not advisable to make foreign policy a means to acquire aid and loans by abandoning the nonalined policy, so also it is unacceptable to get ourselves involved in super-power conflicts. We should learn from the bitter experience of the Pakistan period that such a policy cannot bring good to any nation or people.

4 NEWSPAPERS RESUME PUBLICATION AFTER STRIKE

BK110653 Hong Kong AFP in English 0634 GMT 11 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Dacca, 11 Mar (AFP)--Four government newspapers including Dacca's two leading English dailies resumed publication this morning after striking journalists returned to work last night.

The decision to resume work after three days of strike and intensive negotiations yesterday between Information Minister Habibullah Khan and representatives of the journalists union. [as received]

Journalists of THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER followed by those of THE BANGLADESH TIMES, DAINIK BANGLA of Dacca and DAINIK BURTA of Rajshahi on Friday ceased work demanding dissolution of the management board controlling the four government dailies. They called for rectification of a recent board order creating "wage imbalances" between journalist and non-journalist employees.

After negotiations the government announced its decision to appoint a special committee to probe the alleged "mismanagement" of the management board and to recommend measures for its "improvement, replacement or abolition".

It also assured journalists of rectifying the pay imbalances.

INDIA

GANDHI REITERATES OPPOSITION TO SOVIETS IN AFGHANISTAN

BK091636 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Mar 80 BK

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi has said that her government is committed to curb profiteering and hoarding of essential commodities. It is fully engaged in organizing the proper distribution of such commodities to minimize hardships of the people. She was addressing a number of public meetings in Gujarat and Dadra and Nagar Haveli during a 1-day whirlwind tour today.

Mrs Gandhi assured the people that her government was taking all necessary steps to pull the economy out of the flush [as heard] into which the previous government had pushed it. She said the situation created by the Janata and the Lok Dal-Congress-U governments was so bad that it cannot be improved overnight. It will take considerable time to mend matters. She expressed her confidence that the strongest measures now being employed will help unearth unauthorized stocks and thus bring down prices of commodities like sugar.

She accused vested interests in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar of trying to take advantage of the drought situation. Mrs Gandhi concluded her visit by addressing a public meeting at Ahmedabad this evening. Referring to the situation in Afghanistan, Mrs Gandhi said it has become very complicated. India has already declared her opposition to the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. At the same time we do not like interference by any government in any way. Mrs Gandhi said we are trying to reduce the conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union, which will be in the interest of the rest of the world.

Mrs Gandhi has since left for New Delhi.

RAO ADDRESS IN NEW YORK ON AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN

BK111025 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0834 GMT 11 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Addressing a public audience at the Indian consulate in New York on March 10 visiting External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao strongly defended the central government's decision to dissolve some of state assemblies and order fresh elections, reports PTI. He said there was a clear parallel between the action taken by the previous government in 1977 in ordering the dissolution of the assemblies--a decision upheld by the Supreme Court.

Speaking on foreign relations, Rao said critics of the government's policy on Afghanistan who thought it was tilted towards the Soviet Union had now realised it was not so and that it was the ideal policy to follow in the current circumstances.

India, he said, "is very much concerned than many countries about the events in Afghanistan. Something is happening next door to us and we cannot sit quiet while tension is mounting between the great powers. We cannot sit back and look with equanimity." The stand taken by India had provided greater initiatives in defusing tension. Some of the initiatives taken by India had received approbation all round. "We hope that in the months to come it will be possible for us to defuse the situation so that Afghanistan is resorted to its status as a nonaligned country whose people will be able to decide their own future."

On India's relations with its neighbours, Rao referred to the visits of the king of Nepal, the king of Bhutan and the Bangladesh president and said: "From their speeches and talks with us I can assure you that they are in a mood to be more friendly with India."

As regards relations with Pakistan, he said that the Simla Agreement was a way of life chosen by the two countries. Since the agreement was concluded relations had improved. "The present position the relations between the two are still better in the sense that both have decided to go ahead with the process of normalisation much quicker than before." [sentence as received]

Replying to a question on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, Rao said India had repeatedly protested against the buildup that was going on from time to time in the area including Diego Garcia. India was trying to create the necessary climate for rendering the area free from superpower military rivalries through the instrumentality of the United Nations agencies. Besides India the littoral states were also involved in that effort. It was hoped that these efforts wiould be crowned at least with partial success.

JAPANESE ENVOY SONODA CONTINUES GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Meets With Rao

OW080026 Tokyo KYODO in English 0012 GMT 8 Mar 80 OW

[Text] New Delhi March 7 KYODO--Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao Friday indicated a cautious stand on the matter of India's recognition of the Heng Samrin regime in Cambodia in a meeting held with former Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda in New Delhi. In the meeting, which lasted some 80 minutes, Sonoda and Rao discussed various issues, including the situation in Southwest Asia.

Sonoda arrived in India from Pakistan Friday in the course of his tour of the Middle East as the special envoy of Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira.

On the Cambodian situation, Sonoda told Rao that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) were expressing apprehension over India's recognition of the Heng Samrin regime. He said the Cambodian situation may be affected seriously if India recognized the regime at this time.

Rao replied that the ruling Congress Party pledged during the election campaign that the Heng Samrin regime will be recognized but added the government was still making a careful study on the matter. He thus showed a cautious stand in respect to recognizing the regime.

On other matters, Sonoda and Rao agreed that the intervention of superpowers should be prevented for the peace and stability of the Indian subcontinent. Rao said that it is important to exert efforts to ease tension in order to build up conditions making it easy for the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan, adding that it is necessary to discover concrete formulas.

The Indian external affairs minister said the shadow of war has appeared in the area, especially a tendency of cold war. He added India has received a shock through the incident occurring near India, or the Soviet military intervention of Afghanistan. He revealed that the Afghanistan incident had seriously affected the foreign and domestic policies of India.

He also showed a critical stand against the U.S. for declaring that it will supply large amount of weapons to Pakistan immediately after the Soviet Union intervened in Afghanistan. Sonoda said that mutual trust between India and Pakistan is necessary for the sake of stability in the Indian subcontinent and that relations between India and China are important for peace in Asia and the world.

He added the present time when China was taking a realistic diplomatic policy was a good chance to improve relations between the two countries.

On Japan-India relations, Sonoda said the two countries should hold detailed discussions on problems concerning the world. He promised to recommend to Foreign Minister Saburo Okita that he visit India at an early date for regular Japan-India consultations.

Delhi Reports Dinner

BK080332 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Mr Sunao Sonoda, special envoy of the Japanese prime minister, has said that strengthening of Indo-Japanese relations will positively contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in Asia and the whole world. He was speaking at a dinner hosted in his honor by External Affairs Minister Mr Narasimha Rao in New Delhi.

Mr Sonoda said Japan greatly appreciates the progress made by India in a democratic way. He expressed the hope that his visit will further deepend the friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries.

Earlier in the day Mr Sonoda had a 90-minute meeting with external affairs minister Mr Narasimha Rao. Both the leaders exchanged views on bilateral relations and regional matters. Mr Sonoda, who is on a 5-day visit, is likely to call on the prime minister on Monday.

Ohira Message to Gandhi

BK100923 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Special envoy to the Japanese Prime Minister Sunao Sonoda called on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in New Delhi today. During the hour-long meeting, he handed over a personal message from Japanese Prime Minister Mr Ohira to Mrs Gandhi. Later, talking to newsmen, Mr Sonoda expressed satisfaction with his talks. The developments in the region and bilateral matters are understood to have been discussed.

Gandhi's Remarks

OW101231 Tokyo KYODO in English 1221 GMT 10 Mar 80 OW

[Text] New Delhi March 10 KYODO--Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi Monday told Sunao Sonoda, special envoy of Japanese Premier Masayoshi Ohira, that she was rather sympathetic toward the Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan.

Sonoda was visiting India on his nine-nation tour of the Middle East and Southwestern Asia.

During a one-hour meeting with Sonoda, Mrs. Gandhi said she thought the Soviet Union could not help but send its military forces into Afghanistan because of the growing effects of the Afghanistan unrest on other Soviet republics neighboring that country. The Indian premier also pointed out that a strong anti-Soviet regime has been established in Kabul. [as received] But during the meeting, Mrs. Gandhi and Sonoda agreed on the necessity for stepped-up efforts to try to reduce the growing tension in the area to avoid any possible clash between the world's big powers.

Sonoda delivered a personal message from Prime Minister Ohira to Mrs. Gandhi, but its contents were not immediately disclosed.

Touching on Indian basic diplomacy, Mrs. Gandhi stressed that her government had neither the intention of joining the Soviet Union in a confrontation with China, nor any plans for carrying out any policy opposing the Soviet Union in conjunction with nations of the Third World.

Mrs. Gandhi explained that the Indian Government's basic diplomacy remained in support of the non-aligned nations.

Sonoda told the Indian premier that it was essential for the region's stability to promote further relations between India and Pakistan. Durable friendly relations between India and Pakistan would lead to lasting peace and stability in the region and the world, he added.

In reply, Mrs. Gandhi said her government has been promoting efforts to maintain friendly relations with Beijing and Rawalpindi. She also stressed that Japan should show regard for the constant border disputes existing between China and its neighboring Asian nations and the Soviet Union.

Regarding bilateral economic cooperation, Sonoda asked Mrs. Gandhi to take steps to open the Indian market to Japanese enterprises because Japan is ready to step up its efforts to help Indian industry improve its international competitiveness. But the Indian premier turned down Sonoda's request, saying that her country's economic situation is still on the level of the developing countries.

Sonoda who met Indian External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao last Friday, is scheduled to return home Thursday.

Sonoda Press Conference

OW110109 Tokyo KYODO in English 0054 GMT 11 Mar 80 OW

[Text] New Delhi March 10 KYODO--Sunao Sonoda, special envoy of Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, Monday night stressed the need for Japan to continue maintaining dialogue with the Middle East and Southwest Asian Nations. Sonoda, former foreign minister, was speaking at a press conference in his New Delhi hotel at the end of his seven-nation tour of the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

He said he believed his just-concluded tour possessed a significance of its own under the current situation, though he regretted that he was unable to visit Iran. How Japan will make use of the results of his visit to these regions depends on the consistency and coherence (of Japan's policy), Sonoda emphasized.

Saying that China appears to be making approaches not only to India but also to the Middle East, Sonoda said he would brief China later of the outcome of his tour. Sonoda intends to convey to China Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's desire to improve relations with China. He said China and India are starting to make contacts in various channels. He said he is ready to play the role of helping the two countries deepen their dialogue, if and when such a chance comes. Sonoda believed that China and India are seriously considering to improve their relations.

Touching on Pakistan, Sonoda said he received the impression that Pakistan is strengthening its ties with Islamic countries because of apprehension about the credibility of U.S. commitments to Pakistan.

After the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, India is trying to wipe out its image as a pro-Soviet nation and groping for adoption of an independent posture, Sonoda said. India seems to be seeking stability in the area without leaning toward the Soviet Union or the U.S. he said. Sonoda also said Japan should expand cooperation with India in the development of coal and other natural resources.

MRS GANDHI'S TALKS WITH NEPAL KING 'FRIENDLY, CORDIAL'

BK071246 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] King Birendra of Nepal held discussions with Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi in New Delhi today. There were aides present during the first part of the talks, which lasted for nearly 90 minutes. The foreign ministers of the two countries later joined the talks. The prime minister and the king exchanged views on bilateral matters, regional developments and international issues.

Mrs Gandhi gave a lunch in honor of King and Queen Aishwarya.

External affairs Minister Narasimha Rao and Foreign Minister of Nepal K.B. Shahi met separately and discussed the subjects at length. Their talks, held in two sessions, lasted for nearly 3 hours. They were assisted by foreign secretaries of both the countries.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. There will be a joint statement on the talks tomorrow.

Joint Statement Issued

BK080750 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Mar 80 BK

[Text] India and Nepal are of the firm view that countries of the region as well as others should make all efforts to reduce tension in the area.

In a joint statement issued at the end of King Birendra's official visit to New Delhi, the two countries have agreed to increase mutual contacts at all levels. India and Nepal noted that their relations are characterized by mutual trust and confidence.

The joint statement says that King Birendra and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi discussed the present situation obtaining in the region. International affairs were also covered.

The king was assisted by his Foreign Minister Mr K.B. Shahi and Mrs Ghandi by her External Affairs Minister Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao. The royal visitors were given a warm farewell on their departure for Katmandu this morning. President Mr Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi and other dignitaries were present at the airport to see off the visitors.

Later, talking to newsmen, Mrs Gandhi said the talks with the Nepalese leaders centered around steps at closer contacts between the two countries. Ehe also said that the king her apprised her of his talks with leaders of the countries that he had recently visited.

MRS GANDHI INAUGURATES FAO CONFERENCE IN DELHI 10 MAR

BK101501 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1431 GMT 10 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Inaugurating the 15th regional conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation in New Delhi on March 10, Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi called for initiating an international agreement on the limitation of prices of strategic farm inputs, reports all India Radio. She said such an agreement was necessary to bring these inputs within the reach of small farmers. She called upon developing countries to pool their resources and experience to fight hunger and malnutrition.

The prime minister pointed out that to ensure remunerative marketing for farmers the agricultural growth has to go hand in hand with the stability of production, producer-oriented procurement and consumer-oriented marketing.

Another crucial question, Mrs Gandhi said, was energy management. Ironically those who practise conspicuous consumption are teaching the virtues of conservation to poorer nations.

In his welcome address, agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh asked the conference to evolve an early warning cumtimely action programme of mitigating distress from natural disaster.

Communication Minister C.M. Stephen released a stamp to mark inauguration of the conference.

The FAO conference, which covers Asia and Pacific region, is discussing among other things world food security, agrarian reforms and rural development and increasing rice production in the region. Delegates from 26 countries are taking part.

Speaking at the regional conference for Asia and the Pacific in New Delhi on March 10, Doctor Edouard Saouma, director general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, said: "Of all the challenge facing mankind the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition is among the most important to the preservation of peace and improvement of well being."

Doctor Saouma said that India was a cradle man's agricultural civilization. It had long involved the sympathy of the world by the magnitude of its problems of feeding its population and alleviating the plight of its rural areas.

EXILED TIBETANS DEMONSTRATE AT PRC EMBASSY IN DELHI

BK101556 Hong Kong AFP in English 0657 GMT 10 Mar 80 BK

[Excerpts] New Delhi, 10 March (AFP)--Hundreds of exiled Tibetans demonstrated before the Chinese Embassy here today to mark the 21st anniversary of uprising against "Chinese occupation of Tibet" and reaffirmed their pledge to fight for independence of their homeland.

The Tibetan men in their traditional dress shouted slogans against the Chinese. The women hurled abuses at the onlooking Chinese diplomats and the young ones threw stones at the embassy wall.

Riot police stood in guard in readiness, as the Tibetans set on fire a Chinese flag and threw leaflets inside the embassy compound.

The demonstrating Tibetans marched through the streets of New Delhi's diplomatic enclave and assembled in front of the Chinese Embassy. To show their contempt against the Chinese, they tied shoes with a Chinese red flag and dragged it on. The Tibetans, in turn spat on the flag. The demonstrators carried placards reminding India that an independent Tibet was vital for India's security. Other placards read "Tibet Belongs to Tibetans," "Down with Chinese Dogs."

The Chinese diplomats took photographs as Indian politicians addressed the demonstrators, among the Indian speakers were a former minister in the Janata Government Mr. Raj Narain and Balraj Madhok leader of the recently formed ultra right Jana Sangh--the breakway group of the parent Jana Sangh which was merged with the Janata Party.

PRIME MINISTER TALKS WITH STUDENTS ON ASSAM AGITATION

BK071615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A 24-member delegation of the All Assam Students Union met Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi in New Delhi today. The talks lasted for 2 hours. Home Minister Zail Singh, Railway Minister Kamalapati Tripathi and senior officials were present. Talks will continue tomorrow with the home minister.

During the talks, the prime minister told the students that the center is keen to make a dent into the foreigners issue. It is in the interests of not only Assam but of the whole country that an early solution to the problem is reached. She told them that continued agitation is causing loss to the national economy and also a setback to the economy of the entire northeastern region.

Mrs Gandhi also referred to the uneasiness in neighboring states. She pointed out that because of continued picketing, valuable foreign exchange had to be diverted to the import of petroleum products. She said that crops were withering for want of diesel to run the pump sets. Therefore, she had asked the students to call off picketing and noted also the appeal made by all the political parties.

There was a long discussion of base year for identification of foreigners. The students wanted that it should be earlier than 1971. The prime minister pointed out that almost all the political parties had agreed on 1971 as the base year and the opening of earlier cases will create complications.

Mrs Gandhi reiterated that she does not want Assam to be swarmed by other cultures and other people. India had, however, traditionally accepted refugees for hundreds of years on religious and other grounds. This policy has not weakened India but has strengthened her. The prime minister mentioned about the various measures taken by the government to deal with the question of foreigners. Already 16 tribunals are functioning and if necessary more will be set up. One battalion of border security forces has already been sent. More will be dispatched to check infiltration.

Mrs Gandhi pointed out that it is first necessary to see how effective the measures are. For this, an atmosphere of peace is necessary. She urged the student leaders not to take the attitude of whole hog or nothing on this question. She pointed out that whatever steps are taken it is necessary to have the support of all political parties, and this problem has to be viewed in the national perspective.

Home Minister on Issue

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[Text] Representatives of the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad [People's Struggle Council] have been invited to New Delhi to join the talks on the foreign nationals issue. The talks are likely to be resumed on Monday. This was decided after an hour-long meeting between union Home Minister Zail Singh and representatives of the All-Assam Students Union today. Others who took part in the discussion included Minister of State for Home Affairs Yogendra Makwana, the home secretary and the secretary to the prime minister.

During the talks the home minister told the student's leaders that the continued agitation and picketing of refineries were causing a great loss to the exchequer as well as hardship to the people. It would be in the national interest if picketing is suspended for a prolonged period so that diesel and other petroleum products reach farmers and others.

The home minister pointed out that five of the eight demands of the students have already been accepted in principle by the government and follow-up action has been taken. If 1971 is agreed to as the base year to define foreign nationals, it will be possible to go into the cases of those also who had earlier been deported but later came back. Mr Zail Singh said this meets the students' demand to a large extent but (?for all this) it is necessary to have a climate of peace so that enforcing enforcement measures can be carried out effectively. He assured the student that [word indistinct] interest and cultural identity of the Assamese people would be preserved.

The five of the eight demands accepted in principle are: detection and deportation of foreign nationals, removing their names from electoral rolls, strengthening the election machinery to make their inclusion impossible, issue identity cards to Indian nationals in the state and strengthening the country's borders to check infiltration.

Picketing Suspended

BK100452 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Picketing of government offices in Assam is being suspended from Today. This has been announced by general secretary of the All-Assam Students Union (Bhrigu Kumar Pukhan) and convener of the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad [People's Struggle Council] (Jotin Goswami), in a joint statement in New Delhi. The statement says that picketing of oil centers, will, however, continue.

The delegation of the Gana Sangram Parishad, invited to New Delhi talks, reached the capital last night. Shortly after arrival, the Parishad leaders discussed the situation with the Students Union. The two delegations are to meet union Home Minister Zail Singh today.

PAKISTAN

PRESIDENT TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT BY 23 MARCH

OW102043 Paris AFP in English 1545 GMT 10 Mar 80 OW

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, March 10 (AFP)--Pakistani President General Mohammed Ziaul Haq today announced he will form a new government before March 23, composed of civilians as well as active and retired members of the military.

The current administration, 50 per cent military with General Ziaul Haq holding seven ministerial posts, took power in April 1979.

Although all Pakistan's political parties were dissolved at the end of 1979, "formation of a national government was always a possibility," the president added. He said he was currently consulting with various political figures in an attempt to "get everybody joined on one platform without too many political differences" so that they might "finally revive a political system. Results of his efforts would be announced "at the appropriate time", he told journalists in Lahore.

Responding to questions on his country's foreign policy, General Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan's rejection of a 200-million-dollar U.S. military aid offer "was not linked to the quantity of aid". Pakistan sought above all to assure its security andmaintain its non-aligned status. The country was "maintaining its posture toward Islamic unity and its affiliations with the Moslem world, he said.

"Pakistan neither wanted to be in somebody's bag, nor to be a protege of some other, but would act like a totally-independent country of 75 million people who could stand on their own feet, who respected others and in turn got their respect," he said.

President Ziaul Haq nevertheless praised the Soviet Union for giving aid for Karachi's planned steelworks. The fact that the Soviet Union agreed to lay out an extra 220 million dollars for the project last year underlined the importance of this aid, he added.

PAKISTAN

HAQ CITED ON BASES, RELATIONS WITH SUPERPOWERS, INDIA, PRC

LD071021 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 7 Mar 80 pp 28-30 LD

[Interview granted by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to Huda al-Husayni in Rawalpindi--date not given]

[Text] I felt a lump in my throat as he talked to me about my country [Lebanon] lying thousands of miles away. He said: I know your country. It was a wonderful country. I have visited Lebanon several times and I have known almost every town in it. I loved Beirut. It is a unique city. I hope Lebanon will once again return to what it was. You will restore it better than it was.

Continuing, he added: At present you are facing new and difficult troubles but I highly admire the Lebanese people. Your men are strong and so are your women. You are a people fighting for its freedom. It is so wonderful for man to know the meaning of freedom. You knew and still know how to defend your land. I wish you well. If you want anything from Pakistan we are ready and we will not hesitate. I would also like to tell you that Israel is one of the enemies of Lebanon as well [as published].

Our discussion then shifted from Lebanon to Pakistan.

Question: Geographically, Pakistan seems to be a vital area for the establishment of airbases and for providing naval facilities for the United States. Are you ready to play this role?

Answer: The answer to this question is not difficult. Pakistan belongs to the non-alined states and therefore we do not allow ourselves to be alined with any of the major powers. If we offered bases then this would mean that we are allowing the United States to establish its presence in this area. The real reason could be the protection of the Gulf, but it would also be bound to lead to major political changes.

Therefore Pakistan will not agree to offer part of its territories as military bases for foreign powers, be it American, Soviet or any other state.

But if we discuss the possibility of uniting all the powers in the face of whoever may launch an attack against us, then we would agree to offer some facilities. Soviet ships, for example, dock at Karachi and we provide them with all the necessary facilities. And so do American ships. Therefore, offering facilities is possible, but allowing permanent military bases is acceptable to nobody.

Question: What about the arrival of U.S. forces?

Answer: U.S. forces here in Pakistan? Our population is 75 million, and if we cannot fight to defend ourselves do you expect a handful of Americans to come and defend our country? It is our land and we must fight to defend it. We need some aid to enable us to carry out our work in the best manner. In this regard the United States has been generous with us. It has given us some aid and talks are continuing between us regarding other matters.

Question: Do you believe that, if the Iranian problem is settled and the hostages are released, the U.S. interest in Pakistan will vanish?

Answer: It is difficult to answer this question. But there is no country in the world that gives aid to another country, or supports it, or chooses it as its ally in order to defend the interests of the other country. Every country cooperates with others in order to insure its own interests.

If U.S. interests are linked to Pakistan then it will continue to be interested in us. But once itfeels that Pakistan no longer has any role to play in serving its national interest then it would abandon us whether the Iranian problem was resolved or not. Do not look for human relationships in interstate interests.

Question: Why have you not met with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi personally since this would help restore calm between your countries?

Answer: Who said that I refuse to meet with the Indian leaders? We want to meet them. Former Indian Prime Minister Desai visited me. We want our relations with India to be good and, therefore, we will not hesitate to do anything that could help strengthen relations between our countries.

Question: Do you believe that Pakistan is more exposed to an Indian threat than a Soviet threat?

Answer: I cannot answer this because it depends on India's and Russia's plans. As far as we are concerned, we want good-neighborly relations with India. We also want strong working relations with the Soviet Union, particularly since it is one of the two superpowers and is present in this area. It is very close to us. It is now in Afghanistan and we cannot ignore it.

Meanwhile, India is our neighbor and we want good-neighborly relations with it so that we can live together in peace and stability.

Question: Does this mean that you are ready to cooperate with the Soviet Union in the same way you are cooperating with China, the other communist state?

Answer: When I say that we are striving to establish working relations with the Soviet Union it does not mean that we are throwing ourselves in the Soviet Union's lap. I can say about our relations with China that they are the cornerstone of our foreign policy. This, however, does not mean that China prevents us from having a dialog with the Soviet Union or from establishing working relations with it. The Soviet Union's presence in the area dictates its interest, and we are ready to cooperate, but we refuse to allow our relations with it to be at the expense of our relations with China.

Question: What are the conditions necessary for the establishment of such a relationship [with the USSR]?

Answer: The five principles of coexistence: noninterference in one another's internal affairs, equal partnership, good-neighborliness and respect for the sovereignty and for independence of our territories.

Question: During this month (March) you are to go to China.

Answer: I hope so, God willing.

Question: Can I ask you about the nature and objectives of this visit? Why are you going to lead the Pakistani delegation when it was announced a few days ago that your Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Agha Shahi would lead the delegation?

Answer: Agha Shahi has already visited China. He might also go there ahead of me. Our relations with China are of a special nature that is far removed from protocol and very far removed from tension. Some time ago they invited me to visit China and the invitation was repeated by their foreign minister when he visited us last month. It is not a private visit to China but a visit with a view to exchanging views between the Chinese and Pakistani leaders. It is also intended to underline the strength of our bilateral relations which will absolutely not be affected by any foreign plans.

Question: What can China offer you?

Answer: China helps us a great deal and on all military, economic and social levels. China has helped us a lot to stand firmly on our own feet. We expect these relations to develop further in the future.

Question: But China does not manufacture modern, highly sophisticated weapons.

Answer: This is true. Besides, China has its own problems. China is getting closer to the stage of becoming a superpower but there are many doors that are closed in its face. There are also attempts to impede and blockade it. For this reason we do not want to trouble it. Indeed we want to preserve our relations with it and hope that in the future these mutual relations will develop in such a way that support between the two countries will become mutual.

Question: We know that the Saudi kingdom has not offered Pakistan any military or financial aid since the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. What is the reason for your lukewarm relations?

Answer: No, there is no lukewarmness in the relations. Aid is not the only measure of the strength of relations.

Question: But the present situation is not normal, and Pakistan's relations with other countries can only be evaluated on the basis of the aid it receives.

Answer: Yes, I agree that the situation is not normal but in the meantime we have not yet requested any aid from Saudi Arabia. On the other hand we know that Saudi Arabia's relations with Pakistan are very close, and I am sure that Saudi Arabia will not hesitate to give aid when the time comes. Let us then discuss what Saudi Arabia can do. It can give financial aid to Pakistan. Likewise, if Pakistan felt that it needed financial support then it must ask for it. I am sure Saudi Arabia will not hesitate to respond.

Question: Does this mean that you have not asked yet?

Answer: No. I have not asked.

Question: What are you waiting for?

Answer: We are still studying Pakistan's requirements. We will then make a request to the friendly states, including Saudi Arabia which, I can say, is most prepared to assist us economically and financially. The joint discussions between us have not stopped. I believe that our relations [with Saudi Arabia] are constantly developing and expanding.

Question: Some people are talking about a new Yalta in which Iran is incorporated within the Soviet orbit, leaving only Saudi Arabia for the United States. How do you view the possibility of the application of this new Yalta setup?

Answer: I have not heard of this [new] Yalta. I believe it is pure fantasy unrelated to reality. In any case, Iran is now concerned with consolidating the Islamic Revolution and I wish them success in their endeavor, but it is difficult to imagine Iran allying itself with one superpower and disregarding the other. I believe that Iran will reap the fruits of its revolution and, afterward, the Iranians will assert their affiliation with the nonalined states.

Question: You are talking about your expectations about revolutionary Iran whereas the new Yalta, if implemented, will have two sides--Moscow and Washington.

Answer: Iran has oil and it is now following Islamic principles, and for this reason it is not easy to divide it.

Question: The two superpowers are fighting over oil. Do you believe that the oil war could lead us to a third world war?

Answer: I am not an optimist. I do not believe that either Moscow or Washington wishes to bear the responsibility for a world war, especially when such a war would involve nuclear weapons and consequently entail the annihilation of humanity. I believe that the leaders of the two superpowers are aware of this and, therefore, will seek not to bear the responsibility for the destruction of the world.

Question: Some time ago you proposed the dispatch of peace-keeping forces to Afghanistan. Did you want these forces to separate the Red Army and the freedom fighters, especially when Afghanistan is under occupation and not in a civil war situation?

Answer: There is no civil war but there is terrible tension. Moreover, the fighting in Afghanistan is far from the Pakistani-Afghan border. There, the freedom fighters are fighting the Afghan Army which is siding with the Red Army. If you do not consider this a civil war, you can still see that the conditions for such a war breaking out do exist. When I speak about peace-keeping forces, I allude to the presence of 500,000 Afghan refugees in our country while foreign forces are occupying Afghanistan. When I proposed the idea I said that the Soviet forces must withdraw. Moscow doubts that Pakistan would possibly move or exploit the freedom fighters to create disturbances in Afghanistan. In order to avoid such a possibility I called for peace-keeping forces from the Islamic and nonalined states and from any state desiring peace in Afghanistan. The Afghan refugees will then be able to return to their country and the Afghan people will be able to choose the system of government they want and that is suitable to them.

Question: It appears that you have proposed peace-keeping forces to rescue Pakistan?

Answer: My proposal was made for the sake of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, the Soviet Union and for the sake of the entire area.

Question: For the sake of the Soviet Union?

Answer: Why not? They claim that they came at the request of the government but they are occupying Afghanistan. This is rejected. Therefore, if we can create the conditions that will facilitate their withdrawal in a regular manner, I believe we will be helping them as well.

Question: Do you personally believe that the Soviets will leave Afghanistan?

Answer: They said they will withdraw and I wish to trust them.

Question: What about the oilfields?

Answer: There is no oil in Afghanistan.

Question: But, Mr President, you know that Afghanistan is only a corridor. Is that not so?

Answer: True. This is what we have seen so far. Irrespective of our views about Soviet intentions, I still expect them to withdraw, and, consequently, transform Afghanistan into a neutral state. But if they do not withdraw, we will then understand the meaning of the warning and what we ought to do to defend the security of this area.

Question: You have stated that fighting is going on in Afghanistan but several journalists, myself included, have crossed the border from Pakistan into Afghanistan with the freedom fighters. I proceeded in the direction of Jalalabad and the others took the road to Konarha and Paktia. All of us, however, returned without seeing any fighting.

Answer: I do not know because I only hear the news and read the newspapers. But if you say that there is no fighting there, this means that the Soviet Union has been able to subdue the freedom fighters and, therefore, the Soviets will remain in Afghanistan for a long time.

Question: Mr President, you also said that the refugees must go back to their country. Do you believe that they will leave Pakistan?

Answer: I wish they would go back. They must go back for, otherwise, we would face the same problem the Arab world is facing. There are 3 million homeless Palestinian refugees. Therefore we must create for them the conditions that would enable them to return. Otherwise we will face in this area a new "Palestinian problem." At present their number is half a million. But if what you told me about the cessation of fighting is true and if this means that the Russians will remain then I expect the number of refugees in our country to increase. It is a major problem, a new Palestinian problem. It would mean an increase in the population of our border areas.

Question: The many Pakistanis I have met during my stay here said they feel apprehensive about the future of Baluchistan. Do you feel the same thing?

Answer: Never. Also, this feeling is wrong. Some foreign journalists who do not know the truth about Baluchistan are the ones who are afraid for Baluchistan. You must know that Baluchistan is as patriotic as the rest of the Pakistani provinces. Baluchistan's weakness lies in its geographical link with Afghanistan. According to what we sense from the Soviets' intentions, they might cross Baluchistan in order to reach warm waters.

I do not fear the Baluchis but the Russians. You must go to Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan.

Question: But the journalists who went to Quetta spoke of leftist groupings that have relations with Moscow and about their readiness to welcome the Russian Army in Baluchistan.

Answer: If a journalist comes to Islamabad and meets with half a dozen leftists and goes back to his country, what idea would he take with him? He would say that Pakistan is a socialist state. The journalist who goes to Baluchistan and meets with two or three of the leftist or socialist Baluchi leaders would say that all Baluchistan is leftist.

This is the weakness of journalists. Why is it that when one of you goes to one of those areas he does not meet the general public and, instead, meets some leftists and writes up their false stories?

Question: But is this not a good sign that, despite your martial law, we can go to Baluchistan and meet with all the leftist leaders?

Answer: This is because we are trying to deepen the sense of democracy. The military regime is not a permanent solution. Rather it should lead us to a political solution and it is for the sake of this solution that I must build democracy from the foundation.

Question: During your tour of the town of (Al-Kamra) last week you said that you had begun a dialog with all parties and that you would welcome their participation in the government. But since we know that you dissolved and abolished all parties last October, with whom are you conducting the dialog?

Answer: I did not begin a dialog with any party. It is true that since I abolished the parties I have not talked to any political party leader as representing a party, but I will probably begin a dialog with leading Pakistani personalities, with religious leaders and with thinkers. My not having had a dialog with them so far does not mean that I am against them. Rather, we should develop our political regime on a different basis.

Question: For example?

Answer: On the basis of real commitment to Islam. Within the political regime we would allow the existence of parties with a solid nationalist base and not the parties that have come about as a result of difference in opinions.

Question: Do you intend to establish a party of your own?

Answer: So far I have not considered this idea but if I am compelled to do so then anything is possible. I must then establish a party of my own.

Question: Your talk about the political parties and their leaders confirms that they still exist despite your decision to disband them.

Answer: Of course they still exist. They meet and they hold discussions. Their members still exist. It was only from an official standpoint that I closed their offices and said: No more political activities. But the reality is different.

Question: This means that you know everything.

Answer: Of course I know.

Question: What about the elections?

Answer: Conditions in Pakistan are not yet ripe for elections. Therefore we are seeking to find a political solution in order to face Pakistan's current problems.

Question: Truly, Mr President, are you against As-Sadat?

Answer: Well, why should I be against him. Personally I feel friendly toward him. Egypt has pursued a policy which in the view of the Egyptians is the best for their country. This policy has placed Egypt in a corner and has isolated it. For this reason we feel that there is a certain weakness in As-Sadat's policy. As far as he is concerned it appears to be the best. He always reiterates that Egypt has fought three wars and that he must being about peace because it has been Egypt's blood that has been shed. He wants peace with Israel. This is his viewpoint. But at the same time we all know Israel. This is his viewpoint. But at the same time we all know Israel's aggressive and expansionist intentions toward the Arab countries. Look what it is doing to your country, Lebanon. Instead of unity with the Arab and Islamic countries As-Sadat has chosen to go it alone.

Question: You have been strongly attacked by the West and particularly by the United States because of Pakistan's nuclear program. How far has this program gone?

Answer: We are still going ahead with it and we did not stop. We have told the United States that we want more know-how and science. Our nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. We do not want to manufacture any nuclear bombs. As a result of these explanations the United States has not questioned our work.

Question: Will Pakistan not make the Islamic atomic bomb?

Answer: At present it is not. Why must I reveal whether we will make it or reject it in the future? I still have many options. At present we are not making the bomb because you cannot ask for peace while you are armed to the teeth.

Question: Do you believe that the Islamic revolutions on the borders of the Soviet Union expose it to a greater danger than that posed to the West--particularly the United States--by communism?

Answer: Yes. This is one problem whose gravity the Soviet Union realizes and, for this reason, it has chosen to march southward, because it is afraid that the two Islamic revolutions in Iran and Afghanistan will influence its Islamic areas, particularly Tashkent, Bukhara and Samarkand.

Question: The Arabs consider Israel their archenemy whereas you, in this area, regard communism as the archenemy. Which is more dangerous, Zionism or communism?

Answer: Zionism is more dangerous to Islam. If Israel does not stop relying on Zionism, then peace will continue to be threatened. Communism cannot infiltrate the Islamic mind. It is difficult to reconcile communism, which advocates socialism and denies God, with Islam which believes in God and in humanity. Meanwhile, Zionism is blindly against Islam and has proved to be so. Therefore we must be cautious and concentrate sharply on confronting Zionism more than on confronting communism.